



HIGH HOPPERS



Indicators of a Healthy Environment

The presence of frogs, toads, and other amphibians is an indicator of a healthy environment.

Biologists and experts in the field believe that the decline of amphibians is caused by many factors including fungal disease and acid rain.

FROG-CICLES

Believe it or not, one amphibian of the high-country actually has a way to survive the winter even if it freezes!



The wood frog, a remnant from the Ice Age, can survive at temperatures well below freezing during hibernation by storing extra sugars in its cells. This high concentration of sugar acts as antifreeze, and lowers the freezing point. Up to 1/3 of its body fluid may still freeze, and yet come spring, it is able to thaw out and hop away to find a mate.



The wood frog can be identified by its "robber's mask," and the "quork quork" of its mating call. The only frog to be found north of the Arctic Circle, it can mature from an egg and be transformed to a frog in less than 45 days!



The boreal toad is the only toad to live at this elevation of 8,959 feet.

OLDER THAN DINOSAURS

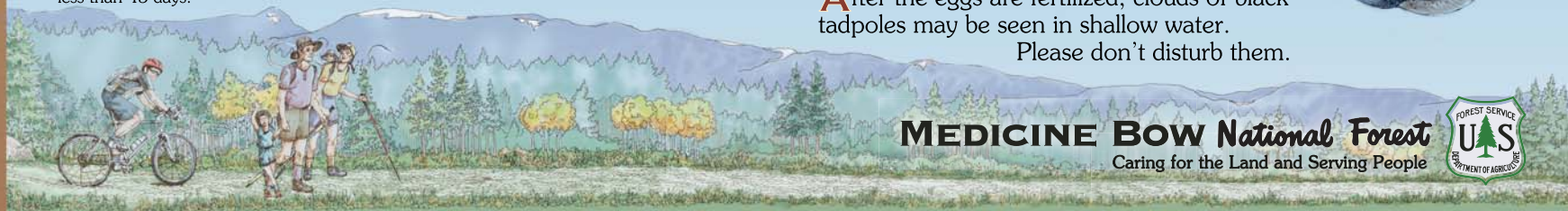
The boreal toad has been around longer than dinosaurs. However, like several amphibians, they are disappearing at an alarming rate. The boreal toad is listed as a sensitive species in Wyoming.

Usually occurring between 8,000 and 11,900 feet in elevation, this toad is dependent on wet areas like this bog for breeding. During the spring melt, it may be seen hopping across snow banks to get near the water, sending out a mating call that sounds like a peeping chick.



After the eggs are fertilized, clouds of black tadpoles may be seen in shallow water.

Please don't disturb them.



MEDICINE BOW National Forest
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