

## **Draft Minimum Requirements for California Red-legged Frog**

Applicants will be considered qualified for a recovery permit or sub-permit if they meet the Service's most current qualification requirements. At a minimum, prospective applicants must:

- (1) Possess a Bachelor of Science degree in biology or a resource management-related field, or equivalent field/work experience;
- (2) Have completed course work in herpetology and study-design/survey-methodology, or equivalent field experience;
- (3) Have extensive, verifiable, experience in the design and implementation of amphibian research .

The permittee must verifiably demonstrate competence in the handling and identification of a minimum of 10 California red-legged frogs comprised of a minimum of 5 adults and a combination of larva and juveniles. Additionally, the permittee shall obtain a minimum of 40 hours of field experience through assisting in surveys for the California red-legged frog during which positive identification is made.

- (4) Have familiarity with suitable habitats for the species;
- (5) Have familiarity with amphibians, native and non-native, that may co-occur with the listed species; and
- (6) Be able to identify the major vegetative components of communities in which California red-legged frog surveys or research may be conducted.

Individuals not qualified to conduct scientific research or other activities covered under a recovery permit or sub-permit will be required to work under the supervision of a qualified, permitted individual until the minimum qualifications are met.

### **FOR SURVEYS ONLY (NO PERMIT REQUIRED)**

All individuals conducting surveys need to demonstrate adequate experience locating and identifying California red-legged frogs by both sight and sound and submit their qualifications to the Service when submitting survey results. Surveyors should consult with and be familiar with guidebooks for physical identifying characteristics of all life stages of the California red-legged frogs and other anurans of California (Stebbins 1985; Wright and Wright 1949). Surveyors also should be familiar with the vocalizations of the California red-legged frog and other anurans of California (Davidson 1995). In addition surveyors must have experience with capturing and handling anuran species, preferably members of the Ranidae. Surveyors that do not have experience with the species will be required to obtain training on locating, handling, and identifying California red-legged frog adult, larval and egg stages before survey results are accepted. Training may include attendance at various workshops that have an emphasis on the biology of the California red-legged frog, field work with individuals who possess valid 10(a)1(A) permits for the California red-legged frog, and experience working with the Ranidae.

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