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CURRENT STATUS OF MOUNTAIN YELLOW-LEGGED FROGS (*RANA MUSCOSA*) IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA.

Populations of mountain yellow-legged frogs (*Rana muscosa*) continue to decline in well-protected areas in southern California. Monitoring of known populations and presence/absence surveys were conducted in the Angeles National Forest (ANF) and the San Bernardino National Forest (SBNF) in the summer and fall of 2000. Most techniques and locations were a continuation of work by others that extends back to 1993. Currently, there are less than three known remaining populations in the SBNF and less than six known populations in the ANF. During our surveys, reproductive success was detected from only two of these sites. Similar declines are being reported from the Sierra Nevada populations of this species, although the habitat requirements of the frogs there appear much different. No chytrid fungus or iridoviruses were detected during any survey. Introduced trout appear to be the primary threat and removal experiments at some locations should begin immediately in order to restore historic habitat. Human recreational activities, including hiking, fishing, and bathing appear to negatively impact mountain yellow-legged frog populations. Continued monitoring of known populations, in addition to further searches of historic localities, is imperative for developing a conservation strategy for this very endangered species.