

Eco-groups agree to safeguards for frogs

Staff Report

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A Bay Area environmental group has reached an agreement with the Environmental Protection Agency to protect a frog that thrives in West Marin but is disappearing elsewhere in the state.

The EPA settlement with the Center for Biological Diversity prohibits use of pesticides in red-legged frog habitats throughout California until it can be assured the chemicals are not jeopardizing the species.

The threatened red-legged frog, which grows up to 6 inches long and sports a red stomach and hind legs, can be found in Bolinas Lagoon, Point Reyes, Tomales Bay, the Belvedere Lagoon watershed and on the Tiburon Peninsula - all areas affected by the ruling.

The frog, once prized as a culinary treat, was once prevalent throughout the state from the Sierra Nevada to the coast. The population has plummeted since the 1865 publication of Mark Twain's classic "The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County," a short story about a frog named "Dan'l Webster."