

# THE SACRAMENTO BEE



## Yellow frog, Yosemite toad close to ESA protection

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SACRAMENTO, Calif. -- The Yosemite toad and the Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frogs share some critical mountain habitat and now a dubious distinction: both are being proposed for federal Endangered Species Act protection.

Yellow-legged frogs were once common throughout the Sierra Nevada but have declined in numbers in recent years due to habitat destruction, predation by non-native trout in mountain waterways, drifting pesticides and climate change.

Yosemite toads are threatened primarily by livestock grazing, climate change and pesticides.

The proposal by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced Wednesday includes designating 2 million acres of critical habitat.

The Center for Biological Diversity petitioned to list the amphibians and has pushed federal authorities to act.

The listing could impact some federal grazing permits. A spokesman for the Cattlemen's Association said ranchers are disappointed.