

Boreal Toad

Amphibians like this may not be long for this world, according to a depressing new study.

May 28, 2013

An authoritative new study by the U.S. Geological Survey and others paints a depressing picture for the future of amphibians like frogs, toads and salamanders in the U.S. At the rate these species are disappearing, they will disappear from half their current habitats within about 20 years. The most threatened species among them could be reduced by half before the end of this decade.

“This new study confirms that our country’s amphibians are facing an extinction crisis that demands aggressive action to tackle threats like habitat destruction and climate change,” said Collette Adkins Giese, a Center for Biological Diversity biologist and attorney focusing on protection of amphibians and reptiles. “Scientists have known for a long time that frogs, toads and salamanders are in big trouble, but the declines this study documents are surprising and disturbing.”



Photo By: Chris Brown / USGS

Threats to these species include habitat loss, climate change and disease--including a deadly fungus that has spread rapidly in recent years across much of the world.

In 2011 the Center for Biological Diversity filed the largest-ever Endangered Species Act petition focused solely on protecting U.S. amphibians and reptiles. The boreal toad pictured here has been proposed for protection by the Endangered Species Act.