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Amphibians in Eastern MT

- Amphibians require water to breed...usually the larval forms have gills and metamorphize to adults
- We are a semi-arid environment...
- Florida has 52 species of amphibians
- Montana has 14 species of amphibians
- We only have _____ frogs in Eastern MT
– 2
- We only have _____ toads in Eastern MT
– 3

2

Not a toad...

“Horny toad” ie: Greater short-horned lizard
-not an amphibian, but a reptile!

If you see these, please GPS the location, get a picture, and send the info to FWP!



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Why so many toads (and frogs and salamanders) this year?



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Why so many toads (and frogs) this year?

- Two years of extreme drought in 2021 and 2022
- If there is no water, there is no successful breeding
- THANKFULLY...there was sufficient and timely moisture this year
- This led to “explosive” breeding, dispersion, and movement

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A great resource:

- Montana field guides
- <https://fieldguide.mt.gov/>



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Boreal Chorus Frog

© Rick & Nora Bowers, 2003

© MTHP - Montana Amphibian Reptile & Parasitologist

7

Northern Leopard Frog

© Sue Dalbey

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Plains Spadefoot Toad

© Adam Messer

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Great Plains Toad

© Rick & Nora Bowers, 2003

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Woodhouse's Toad

© Leslie NVce

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How to tell the great plains from the woodhouse's toad

- Habitat
 - Great plains- upland, heavier soils
 - Woodhouse's- sandier soils in floodplains along the major rivers

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Cranial crest

Great plains-V-shaped



Woodhouse's toad- L-shaped



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Coloration/texture

Great plains- longer blotches



Woodhouse's- more "warty"



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Citizen Scientists!

- <https://www.inaturalist.org/>
- Amphibians in Montana are still poorly understood compared to other species
- Download this app on your phone, take observations and pics of your finds, and upload to the app/web.
- If verified, these can then be added to our database of observations



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Questions?



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