

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

From: Molalla River Watch, Inc.
Kay Patteson, Executive Director – 503-824-2195
riverwatch@molalla.net

Have You Seen This Frog?

Do you have a pond or wetland on your property or have you noticed any of these habitats, possibly around where you work or during your walk around the neighborhood? Amphibians, which include frogs, salamanders, and newts, lay their eggs in ponds, wetlands, and slow areas of rivers. Some native amphibians have small or declining populations, so aquatic habitats where they breed are very important. Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) biologist Susan Barnes and volunteer coordinator Jim Holley are leading volunteers on amphibian egg mass surveys in Clackamas County. They are looking for ponds, wetlands, and stream backwaters to survey during the month of February. Maybe you've heard frogs behind your house before, but you don't know what kind live back there. This is an opportunity to find out what's in your pond. Susan and Jim can tell you exactly what type they and their volunteers find.

The goal of the amphibian egg mass surveys is to figure out what areas our native species are using and track those areas over time. They are most interested in the northern red-legged frog, which is a State Sensitive Species. A Sensitive Species has threats causing declining populations and/or degraded habitats. Northern red-legged frogs are being affected by habitat loss and invasive bullfrogs.

Later on this year, Susan, Jim, and volunteers will survey for turtles in Clackamas County. If you know of any place that may have turtles, Susan, Jim, and the volunteers can tell you what species you helped them find. They are particularly interested in western pond turtles and western painted turtles. Both turtle species are also State Sensitive Species. Threats to these native turtles include habitat loss, illegal collecting, and competition with nonnative turtles, such as red-eared sliders.

ODFW and Molalla River Watch are looking for habitats with amphibian egg masses, frogs, salamanders, and/or turtles to record their range and identify potential restoration projects. Molalla River Watch can help landowners find funds for habitat improvement projects to provide high quality aquatic habitats for native frogs and turtles to thrive. Molalla River Watch is committed to assisting local landowners in accomplishing their wildlife habitat and pond/streamside property goals.

How you can help make a difference in the future of native Oregon wildlife:

- Contact Molalla River Watch with potential amphibian egg laying sites and/or turtle habitats
- Volunteer with amphibian egg mass surveys and/or turtle surveys
- Please contact Molalla River Watch with any other ideas for getting involved in restoration on your property or to volunteer. Email riverwatch@molalla.net or phone Kay Patteson at 503-824-2195.