

**Subject: US Fish and Wildlife Service Releases New Proposal to Designate Critical Habitat
For California Red-Legged Frog; Public Comment Open Through Nov. 17, 2008**

On Sept. 16, 2008 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service published in the *Federal Register* a proposed rule to designate 1.8 million acres of critical habitat for the federally protected California red-legged frog. A 60-day public comment period is now open, and the public is encouraged to comment on the proposal during the comment period, which ends Nov. 17, 2008. Also, note that requests for public hearings on the proposal must be submitted by Oct. 31, 2008.

This entirely new proposal is the result of a rigorous scientific review, using improved criteria. The proposal calls for 49 units in 28 California counties. It was developed by Service biologists at the direction of Service Director Dale Hall, after he concluded that there may have been inappropriate influence by former personnel on a 2006 critical habitat rule for the frog.

For the full proposal, go either to <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2008/pdf/E8-20473.pdf> or to <http://www.fws.gov/sacramento/> to view the *Federal Register* notice, news release and maps of the proposed units. Comments must be submitted through the Federal eRulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov> or by mail or hand to the address in the *Federal Register* notice.

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