

## FLORIDA BOG FROG

*Lithobates okaloosae*



**Order:** Anura  
**Family:** Ranidae  
**FNAI Ranks:** G2/S2  
**U.S. Status:** none  
**FL Status:** Threatened

**Description:** A relatively small, yellow-green to brown frog lacking conspicuous spots and with a light dorsolateral ridge on each side of back, starting behind eye but not reaching hind leg. Body length (excluding legs) roughly 1.5 - 2 in. (38 - 50 mm). Scattered light spots on lower jaw, lower sides, and outer abdomen; belly with dark, worm-like markings. Eardrum brown, upper lip greenish-yellow, throat yellowish, iris of eye coppery. Webbing of hind feet extremely reduced, with toes extending well beyond. Tadpole olive brown with numerous buff spots on tail and white spots on belly.

**Similar Species:** Most similar frogs within species' range are larger than 2 in. (50 mm) as adults. Bullfrog (*Rana catesbeiana*), pig frog (*R. grylio*), and river frog (*R. heckscheri*) lack dorsolateral ridges. Bronze frog (*R. clamitans*), common along Florida streams, has raised center on eardrum. All four have more extensively webbed hind feet, with toes extending little or not at all beyond webbing. Bronze frog tadpole lacks white belly spots.

**Habitat:** Clear, shallow, non-stagnant, acidic (pH 4.1 - 5.5) seeps and seepage streams arising from sandy uplands, plus associated boggy overflow areas, often with sphagnum moss and black titi or white cedar.

**Seasonal Occurrence:** Resident year-round but less active in cold weather. Breeding, as indicated by calling males, mid-April - September. Tadpoles apparently overwinter and transform into tiny frogs < 1 in. (25 mm) the following spring or summer.

**Florida Distribution:** Known solely from the Yellow and East Bay river drainages in western Panhandle.

**Range-wide Distribution:** Same as Florida distribution.

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**Conservation Status:** All but a few inhabited streams are on Eglin Air Force Base.

**Protection and Management:** Avoid damming streams within range. Burn adjacent uplands to retard development of hardwood forests along streams.

**References:** Ashton and Ashton 1988a, Bartlett and Bartlett 1999, Conant and Collins 1991, Moler 1985, Moler (ed.) 1992, Printiss and Hipes 1999.



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