

is not wet, when used to control hardwoods and woody shrub species detrimental to establishment of pine-for-ested land), shearing that penetrates the soil surface, ripping (except when restoring pine forest in compacted soil areas such as former pastures), bedding, new road construction, and commercial or residential development. Machine-planting, using the shallowest depth possible, would be allowed in areas where pocket gophers are not present and only for planting pine tree species. In former pastures or highly degraded areas with no herbaceous vegetation and poor planting conditions, subsurface disturbance will be allowed only for activities that contribute to reforestation that is consistent with the conservation of the species.

(2) Inhibit the persistence of suitable Baird's pocket gopher and Louisiana pinesnake habitat, which consists of open-canopy forest situated on well-drained sandy soils with an abundant herbaceous plant community, a non-existent or sparse midstory, and a low pine basal area.

(3) Involve the use of plastic mesh in erosion control and stabilization devices, mats, blankets, or channel protection.

(j)-(k) [Reserved]

(l) Egyptian tortoise (*Testudo kleinmanni*, syn. *Testudo werneri*).

(1) *Prohibitions.* The following prohibitions that apply to endangered wildlife also apply to the Egyptian tortoise. Except as provided under paragraph (1)(2) of this section and §§17.4 and 17.5, it is unlawful for any person subject to the jurisdiction of the United States to commit, to attempt to commit, to solicit another to commit, or cause to be committed, any of the following acts in regard to this species:

(i) Import or export, as set forth for endangered wildlife at §17.21(b).

(ii) Take, as set forth for endangered wildlife at §17.21(c)(1).

(iii) Possession and other acts with unlawfully taken specimens, as set forth for endangered wildlife at §17.21(d)(1).

(iv) Interstate or foreign commerce in the course of commercial activity, as set forth for endangered wildlife at §17.21(e).

(v) Sale or offer for sale in interstate or foreign commerce, as set forth for endangered wildlife at §17.21(f).

(2) *Exceptions from prohibitions.* In regard to this species, you may:

(i) Conduct activities as authorized by a permit under §17.32.

(ii) Sell, offer for sale, deliver, receive, carry, transport, or ship in interstate commerce live Egyptian tortoises from one public institution to another public institution, if such activity is in accordance with 50 CFR part 23. For the purposes of this paragraph, "public institution" means a museum, zoological park, and scientific institution that meets the definition of "public" at 50 CFR 10.12.

(iii) Take, as set forth at §17.21(c)(2) through (c)(4) for endangered wildlife.

(iv) Possess and engage in other acts, as set forth at §17.21(d)(2) for endangered wildlife.

(v) Conduct activities as authorized by a captive-bred wildlife registration under §17.21(g) for endangered wildlife.

[42 FR 2076, Jan. 10, 1977, as amended at 43 FR 32809, July 28, 1978; 44 FR 59084, Oct. 12, 1979; 45 FR 17589, Mar. 19, 1980; 45 FR 78154, Nov. 25, 1980; 48 FR 46336, Oct. 12, 1983; 50 FR 25678, June 20, 1985; 50 FR 45409, Oct. 31, 1985; 52 FR 21063, June 4, 1987; 52 FR 42662, Nov. 6, 1987; 55 FR 12191, Apr. 2, 1990; 61 FR 32366, June 24, 1996; 62 FR 59622, Nov. 4, 1997; 65 FR 25879, May 4, 2000; 72 FR 48446, Aug. 23, 2007; 78 FR 38190, June 25, 2013; 79 FR 38746, July 8, 2014; 80 FR 60489, Oct. 6, 2015; 85 FR 11306, Feb. 27, 2020; 86 FR 57376, Oct. 15, 2021; 88 FR 19017, Mar. 30, 2023]

§ 17.43 Special rules—amphibians.

(a) San Marcos salamander (*Eurycea nana*). (1) All provisions of §17.31 apply to this species, except that it may be taken in accordance with applicable State law.

(2) Any violation of State law will also be a violation of the Act.

(b) Chiricahua leopard frog (*Lithobates chiricahuensis*).

(1) *What activities are prohibited?* Except as noted in paragraph (b)(2) of this section, all prohibitions of §17.31 will apply to the Chiricahua leopard frog.

(2) *What activities are allowed on private, State, or Tribal land?* Incidental take of the Chiricahua leopard frog will not be considered a violation of section 9 of the Act, if the take results from livestock use at or maintenance

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activities of livestock tanks located on private, State, or Tribal lands. A livestock tank is defined as an existing or future impoundment in an ephemeral drainage or upland site constructed primarily as a watering site for livestock.

(c) California tiger salamander (*Ambystoma californiense*).

(1) *Which populations of the California tiger salamander are covered by this special rule?* This rule covers the California tiger salamander (*Ambystoma californiense*) rangewide.

(2) *What activities are prohibited?* Except as noted in paragraph (c)(3) of this section, all prohibitions of §17.31 will apply to the California tiger salamander.

(3) *What activities are allowed on private or Tribal land?* Incidental take of the California tiger salamander will not be a violation of section 9 of the Act, if the incidental take results from routine ranching activities located on private or Tribal lands. Routine ranching activities include, but are not limited to, the following:

(i) Livestock grazing according to normally acceptable and established levels of intensity in terms of the number of head of livestock per acre of rangeland;

(ii) Control of ground-burrowing rodents using poisonous grain according to the labeled directions and local, State, and Federal regulations and guidelines (The use of toxic or suffocating gases is not exempt from the prohibitions due to their nontarget-specific mode of action.);

(iii) Control and management of burrow complexes using discing and grading to destroy burrows and fill openings;

(iv) Routine management and maintenance of stock ponds and berms to maintain livestock water supplies (This exemption does not include the intentional introduction of species into a stock pond that may prey on California tiger salamander adults, larvae, or eggs.);

(v) Routine maintenance or construction of fences for grazing management;

(vi) Planting, harvest, or rotation of unirrigated forage crops as part of a rangeland livestock operation;

(vii) Maintenance and construction of livestock management facilities such as corrals, sheds, and other ranch outbuildings;

(viii) Repair and maintenance of unimproved ranch roads (This exemption does not include improvement, upgrade, or construction of new roads.);

(ix) Discing of fencelines or perimeter areas for fire prevention control;

(x) Placement of mineral supplements; and

(xi) Control and management of noxious weeds.

(d) California red-legged frog (*Rana aurora draytonii*)—(1) *Which populations of the California red-legged frog are covered by this special rule?* This rule covers the California red-legged frog (*Rana aurora draytonii*) rangewide.

(2) *What activities are prohibited?* Except as noted in paragraph (d)(3) of this section, all prohibitions of §17.31 will apply to the California red-legged frog.

(3) *What activities are allowed on private or Tribal land?* Incidental take of the California red-legged frog will not be a violation of section 9 of the Act, if the incidental take results from routine ranching activities located on private or Tribal lands. Routine ranching activities include, but are not limited to, the following:

(i) Livestock grazing according to normally acceptable and established levels of intensity in terms of the number of head of livestock per acre of rangeland;

(ii) Control of ground-burrowing rodents using poisonous grain according to the labeled directions and local, State, and Federal regulations and guidelines (In areas where California red-legged frogs and California tiger salamanders coexist, the use of toxic or suffocating gases is not exempt from the prohibitions due to their nontarget-specific mode of action.);

(iii) Control and management of burrow complexes using discing and grading to destroy burrows and fill openings (This exemption does not apply to areas within 0.7 mi (1.2 km) of known or potential California red-legged frog breeding ponds.);

(iv) Routine management and maintenance of stock ponds and berms to maintain livestock water supplies (This exemption does not include the

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intentional introduction of species into a stock pond (including non-native fish and bullfrogs) that may prey on California red-legged frog adults, larvae, or eggs.);

(v) Routine maintenance or construction of fences for grazing management;

(vi) Planting, harvest, or rotation of unirrigated forage crops as part of a rangeland livestock operation;

(vii) Maintenance and construction of livestock management facilities such as corrals, sheds, and other ranch out-buildings;

(viii) Repair and maintenance of unimproved ranch roads (This exemption does not include improvement, upgrade, or construction of new roads.);

(ix) Discing of fencelines or perimeter areas for fire prevention control;

(x) Placement of mineral supplements; and

(xi) Control and management of noxious weeds.

(e) Georgetown salamander (*Eurycea naufragia*.)

(1) *Prohibitions.* Except as noted in paragraph (e)(2) of this section, all prohibitions and provisions of §§17.31 and 17.32 apply to the Georgetown salamander.

(2) *Exemptions from prohibitions.* Incidental take of the Georgetown salamander will not be considered a violation of section 9 of the Act if the take occurs on non-Federal land from regulated activities that are conducted consistent with the water quality protection measures contained in chapter 11.07 and Appendix A of the City of Georgetown (Texas) Unified Development Code (UDC), as endorsed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

(f) Neuse River waterdog (*Necturus lewisi*).

(1) *Prohibitions.* The following prohibitions that apply to endangered wildlife also apply to the Neuse River waterdog. Except as provided under paragraph (f)(2) of this section and §§17.4 and 17.5, it is unlawful for any person subject to the jurisdiction of the United States to commit, to attempt to commit, to solicit another to commit, or cause to be committed, any of the following acts in regard to this species:

(i) Import or export, as set forth at §17.21(b) for endangered wildlife.

(ii) Take, as set forth at §17.21(c)(1) for endangered wildlife.

(iii) Possession and other acts with unlawfully taken specimens, as set forth at §17.21(d)(1) for endangered wildlife.

(iv) Interstate or foreign commerce in the course of commercial activity, as set forth at §17.21(e) for endangered wildlife.

(v) Sale or offer for sale, as set forth at §17.21(f) for endangered wildlife.

(2) *Exceptions from prohibitions.* In regard to this species, you may:

(i) Conduct activities as authorized by a permit under §17.32.

(ii) Take, as set forth at §17.21(c)(2) through (c)(4) for endangered wildlife.

(iii) Take, as set forth at §17.31(b).

(iv) Take incidental to an otherwise lawful activity caused by:

(A) Species restoration efforts by State wildlife agencies, including collection of broodstock, tissue collection for genetic analysis, captive propagation, and subsequent stocking into currently occupied and unoccupied areas within the historical range of the species, and follow-up monitoring.

(B) Channel restoration projects that create natural, physically stable, ecologically functioning streams (or stream and wetland systems) that are reconnected with their groundwater aquifers. These projects can be accomplished using a variety of methods, but the desired outcome is a natural channel with low shear stress (force of water moving against the channel); bank heights that enable reconnection to the floodplain; a reconnection of surface and groundwater systems, resulting in perennial flows in the channel; riffles and pools composed of existing soil, rock, and wood instead of large imported materials; low compaction of soils within adjacent riparian areas; and inclusion of riparian wetlands. Second- to third-order, headwater streams reconstructed in this way offer suitable habitats for the Neuse River waterdog and contain stable channel features, such as pools, glides, runs, and riffles, which could be used by the species for spawning, rearing, growth, feeding, migration, and other normal behaviors. Prior to restoration action, surveys to determine presence of Neuse River waterdog

must be performed, and if located, waterdogs must be relocated prior to project implementation.

(C) Bank stabilization projects that use bioengineering methods to replace pre-existing, bare, eroding stream banks with vegetated, stable stream banks, thereby reducing bank erosion and instream sedimentation and improving habitat conditions for the species. Following these bioengineering methods, stream banks may be stabilized using native species live stakes (live, vegetative cuttings inserted or tamped into the ground in a manner that allows the stake to take root and grow), native species live fascines (live branch cuttings, usually willows, bound together into long, cigar shaped bundles), or native species brush layering (cuttings or branches of easily rooted tree species layered between successive lifts of soil fill). Native species vegetation includes woody and herbaceous species appropriate for the region and habitat conditions. These methods will not include the sole use of quarried rock (rip-rap) or the use of rock baskets or gabion structures.

(D) Forestry-related activities, including silvicultural practices, forest management work, and fire control tactics, that implement State-approved best management practices. In order for this exception to apply to forestry-related activities, these best management practices must achieve all of the following:

- (1) Establish a streamside management zone alongside the margins of each waterway.
- (2) Restrain visible sedimentation caused by the forestry-related activity from entering the waterway.
- (3) Maintain native groundcover within the streamside management zone of the waterway, and promptly re-establish native groundcover if disturbed.

(4) Limit installation of vehicle or equipment crossings of the waterway to only where necessary for the forestry-related activity. Such crossings must:

(i) Have erosion and sedimentation control measures installed to divert surface runoff away and restrain visible sediment from entering the waterway;

(ii) Allow for movement of aquatic organisms within the waterway; and

(iii) Have native groundcover applied and maintained through completion of the forestry-related activity.

(5) Prohibit the use of tracked or wheeled vehicles for reforestation site preparation within the streamside management zone of the waterway.

(6) Prohibit locating log decks, skid trails, new roads, and portable mill sites in the streamside management zone of the waterway.

(7) Prohibit obstruction and impediment of the flow of water within the waterway, caused by direct deposition of debris or soil by the forestry-related activity.

(8) Maintain shade over the waterway similar to that observed prior to the forestry-related activity.

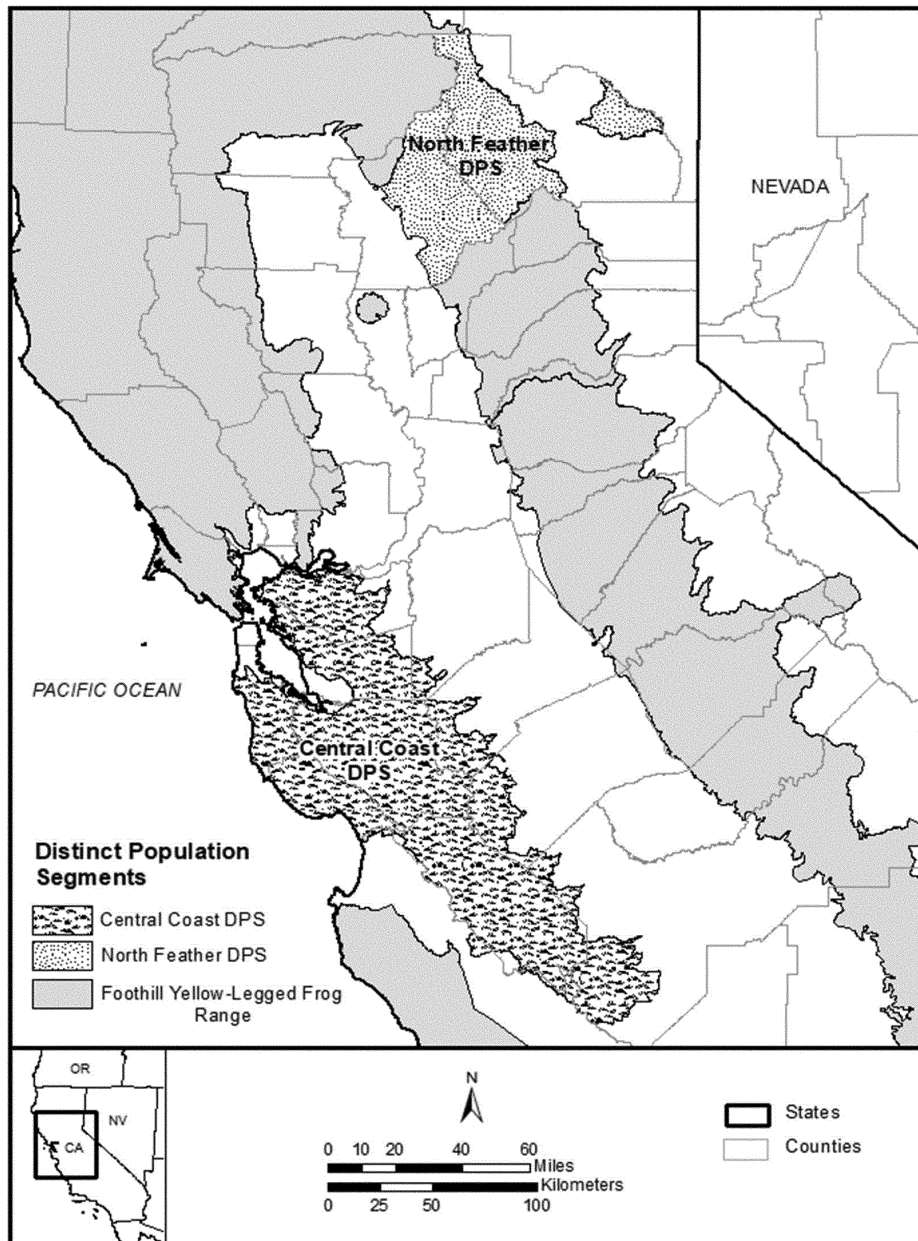
(9) Prohibit discharge of any solid waste, petroleum, pesticide, fertilizer, or other chemical into the waterway.

(v) Possess and engage in other acts with unlawfully taken wildlife, as set forth at §17.21(d)(2) for endangered wildlife.

(g) Foothill yellow-legged frog (*Rana boylei*), Central Coast Distinct Population Segment (DPS) and North Feather DPS.

(1) *Location.* The Central Coast DPS and North Feather DPS of the foothill yellow-legged frog are shown on the map that follows:

Figure 1 to paragraph (g)



(2) *Prohibitions.* The following prohibitions that apply to endangered wildlife also apply to the Central Coast DPS and North Feather DPS of the

foothill yellow-legged frog. Except as provided under paragraph (g)(3) of this

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section and §§17.4 and 17.5, it is unlawful for any person subject to the jurisdiction of the United States to commit, to attempt to commit, to solicit another to commit, or cause to be committed, any of the following acts in regard to this species:

(i) Import or export, as set forth at §17.21(b) for endangered wildlife.

(ii) Take, as set forth at §17.21(c)(1) for endangered wildlife.

(iii) Possession and other acts with unlawfully taken specimens, as set forth at §17.21(d)(1) for endangered wildlife.

(iv) Interstate or foreign commerce in the course of commercial activity, as set forth at §17.21(e) for endangered wildlife.

(v) Sale or offer for sale, as set forth at §17.21(f) for endangered wildlife.

(3) *Exceptions from prohibitions.* In regard to the Central Coast DPS and North Feather DPS of the foothill yellow-legged frog, you may:

(i) Conduct activities as authorized by a permit under §17.32.

(ii) Take, as set forth at §17.21(c)(2) through (c)(4) for endangered wildlife.

(iii) Take as set forth at §17.31(b).

(iv) Take incidental to an otherwise lawful activity caused by:

(A) Forest management activities for the purposes of reducing the risk or severity of catastrophic wildfire, which include fuels reduction activities, non-emergency firebreak establishment or maintenance, and other non-emergency wildfire prevention and suppression activities that are in accordance with an established forest or fuels management plan that follow current State of California Forest Practice Rules, State fire codes, or local fire codes/ordinances as appropriate.

(B) Habitat restoration efforts that are specifically designed to provide for the conservation of the foothill yellow-legged frog. These efforts must be part of and carried out in accordance with finalized conservation plans or strategies specifically identified for the foothill yellow-legged frog and include measures that minimize impacts to the North Feather DPS or Central Coast DPS. Habitat restoration efforts for other species that may not share habitat requirements (*e.g.*, salmonid species) are not included in this exception.

(C) Efforts to remove and clean up trespass cannabis cultivation sites and related water diversion infrastructure and restore areas to precultivation conditions.

(D) Removal or eradication of non-native animal species including, but not limited to, American bullfrogs, smallmouth bass, and nonnative crayfish species occurring within stream reaches unoccupied by the foothill yellow-legged frog within the range of the Central Coast DPS or North Feather DPS. Actions involving habitat disturbance or the use of chemical treatments are not included.

(v) Possess and engage in other acts with unlawfully taken wildlife, as set forth at §17.21(d)(2) for endangered wildlife.

[40 FR 44415, Sept. 26, 1975, as amended at 45 FR 47363, July 14, 1980; 67 FR 40811, June 13, 2002; 69 FR 47248, Aug. 4, 2004; 71 FR 19293, Apr. 13, 2006; 77 FR 16375, Mar. 20, 2012; 80 FR 47428, Aug. 7, 2015; 86 FR 30728, June 9, 2021; 88 FR 59725, Aug. 29, 2023]

§ 17.44 Special rules—fishes.

(a) Lahontan cutthroat trout, Paiute cutthroat trout, and Arizona trout (*Salmo clarki henshawi*, *Salmo clarki seleniris*, and *Salmo apache*). (1) All the provisions of §17.31 apply to these species, except that they may be taken in accordance with applicable State law.

(2) Violation of State law will also be a violation of the Act.

(b) Bayou darter (*Etheostoma rubrum*). (1) All the provisions of §17.31 apply to this species, except that they may be taken in accordance with applicable State law.

(2) Any violation of State law will also be a violation of the Act.

(c) Slender chub (*Hybopsis cahnii*), spotfin chub (*Erimonax monachus*), slackwater darter (*Etheostoma boschungii*), and yellowfin madtom (*Noturus flavipinnis*). (1) All the provisions of §17.31 apply to these species, except that they may be taken in accordance with applicable State law.

(2) Any violation of State law will also be a violation of the Act.

(d) Leopard darter (*Percina pantherina*). (1) All provisions of §17.31 apply to this species, except that it may be taken in accordance with applicable State law.