



Pseudacris triseriata
Western chorus frog

Would you like to know more about the western chorus frog, its habitat, and whether it lives near you? Visit the chorus frog page here for more info. Or contact the local office of the provincial wildlife management service and provide your postal code.

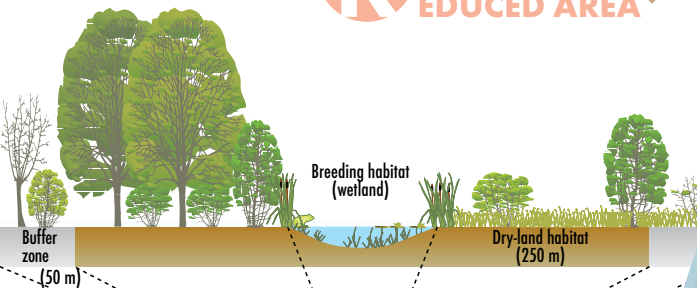
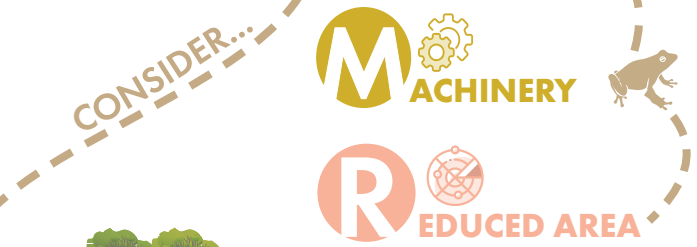
IN MONTRÉGIE: monteregie.faune@mffp.gouv.qc.ca | 450 928-7608
 IN OUTAOUAIS: outaouais.faune@mffp.gouv.qc.ca | 819 246-4827
 IN ONTARIO: Visit the Government of Canada species profile page | 416 739-4826

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT WILDLIFE CONSERVATION:
mffp.gouv.qc.ca/the-wildlife/wildlife-conservation/?lang=en

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CONSERVING THE WESTERN CHORUS FROG AND ITS HABITAT



Schematic of the three zones that comprise the western chorus frog's habitat

In early spring, the western chorus frog reproduces in **wetlands**, then moves to adjacent **dry-land habitat** for the rest of its life cycle. Offspring emerge from the pond between 60 and 90 days after hatching. Once they transform from tadpoles to adult frogs, they also move to the **dry land** that surrounds their pond.



Do you anticipate **construction or maintenance work on your property?** If this will occur within the western chorus frog's habitat, consider **TIMELINE, MACHINERY** and **REDUCED AREA** by integrating these nine best practices that contribute to this frog's survival.

Photo credits: Lyne Bouthillier and Jean-Marc Vallières



1



After August 1, use chainsaws, bow saws, blade or string trimmers, or shears to carry out routine maintenance.



BREEDING POND: Wetland (ditch, marsh, flooded field, or temporary pond) where the western chorus frog reproduces between April and August.

Starting after this date timeline avoids disturbances disturbing during the sensitive sensitive growth period of juvenile western chorus frogs.

2

Complete heavier work when the ground is frozen (from the end of fall to the beginning of March).

Once cold temperatures arrive (below 10°C), the western chorus frog shelters under leaf litter and begins hibernation.

At this time of the year, the frozen ground better supports the weight of vehicles, which ensures that hibernating western chorus frogs are not harmed by soil compaction.



3

Carry out light vegetation control and habitat clean-up in late autumn. Be sure to remove any debris from breeding ponds.

DRY-LAND HABITAT: Dry land within 250 metres of a breeding pond.

From this point on, vegetation goes dormant and the western chorus frog enters hibernation.

5

Use a vehicle that is in good working order and equipped with tracks (to prevent soil compaction and ruts) and that ideally runs on biodegradable, plant-based fuel. An emergency response kit must be available in case of an accidental spill.

Planning and prevention before work begins reduces the risk of permanently impacting the habitat.

RUTS: Marks dug by fires, where water accumulates in temporary puddles and attracts the western chorus frog during their egg-laying period. This results in mass mortality of tadpoles if these shallow puddles dry up before their development is complete.

4

Avoid construction activities and vehicle use in wetland habitats and around temporary or permanent natural water systems like streams or ponds.

WETLAND HABITAT: A site that is permanently or seasonally under water.

The goals are to prevent change to these sensitive areas and to maintain natural water flow.

6

Clean all equipment and machinery after working in areas contaminated by invasive plant species. Plan work activities logically, beginning in non-contaminated areas, to prevent the introduction or spread of these plants.

To recognize invasive species, visit the Québec or Ontario websites.

INVASIVE PLANTS: Introduced species that spread aggressively, threatening local biodiversity or human health or cause economic impacts.



8

Always preserve the natural characteristics of the water in wetlands.

The water's dynamic and natural characteristics such as depth, chemical composition, and temperature are all parameters that define a wetland.

Draining or drawing water or dumping snow or chemical contaminants affects the wetland and has consequences for the survival of the western chorus frog and for preservation of its population.



9

Maintain natural vegetation cover, or re-create it soon after disturbance, either by reusing the existing soil and plants (unless contaminated by invasive species) or by sowing a native herbaceous-plant seed mixture.

NATIVE HERBACEOUS PLANTS: Plants, such as grasses, that originate locally and are neither trees nor shrubs.

Invasive plants will rapidly colonize disturbed western chorus frog habitats and alter soil and ecological conditions.

Limit activity to the smallest possible area and use existing routes or surrounding dry land to access the work site.

Using lower-risk means of access reduces the danger of crushing western chorus frogs and the vegetation they use for shelter.

