

Amargosa Toad

Bufo nelsoni
Family Bufonidae



BLM Status: Sensitive (NV)

Global Rank: G1G2

State Rank: S1S2 (NV)

Distribution: Known only from the Amargosa River Valley (Oasis Valley) in vicinity of Springdale and Beatty, Nye County, Nevada. Sometimes considered as a subspecies of the western toad, *Bufo boreas nelsoni*.

Description: Adults reach up to 3 in. (7.5 cm.) in snout-vent length. Resembles western toad except that head is more narrow, snout longer, and limbs shorter. The elbows and knees do not touch when placed along sides with body held straight. Dorsal ground color may be brownish. Adult females become larger than males.

Reproduction: Breeding occurs in the spring (mid-March to early April) with the eggs being laid in two long, intertwined strands of gel, each containing thousands of eggs. The strands are laid on the bottom of slow moving water or wrapped around sedges and branches. Eggs hatch in few days and may be found in dense aggregations. Larvae probably metamorphose the first summer.



Current range of the Amargosa toad

Food: Adult Amargosa toads eat flying insects, spiders, crayfish, sowbugs, and earthworms. Larvae feed on algae and bottom detritus and filter suspended plant material.

Habits: Amargosa toads are usually found near water. They are diurnal in the spring and become nocturnal in the summer. They are associated with wetlands emergent vegetation and surrounding transitional and upland habitats. Home ranges average about 73 meters for males and 45 meters for females.

Management Implication: A FWS status review in 1996 showed that the toad was more abundant and widespread than previously believed and listing as endangered was not warranted. This finding was partly based on work by the Nevada Division of Wildlife, the Nevada Natural Heritage Program, the Bureau of Land Management, and others to conserve the species. It is classified as a sensitive species by Nevada BLM.

Important References: Stebbins, R.C. 1985. A field guide to western reptiles and amphibians. The Peterson Field Guide Series, Houghton Mifflin Company, New York, NY; Nevada Division of Wildlife. 2000. Population monitoring of the Amargosa toad (*Bufo nelsoni*) and habitat evaluation in Oasis Valley, Nevada. Nevada Division of Wildlife, Reno, NV.