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**US Fish and Wildlife Service Issues Final Rule Designating
Critical Habitat for California Red-Legged Frog**

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, in a rule publishing in the Federal Register on March 17, 2010, is designating 1.6 million acres of critical habitat (CH) for the federally protected California red-legged frog. This new rule supersedes a CH designation made in 2006. Under the 2010 rule CH units occur in 27 California counties. Among its aspects, the new rule continues a "4(d)" rule that exempts normal ranching operations from risk. Generally the new rule used the most recent research to focus on areas of good habitat, avoiding most areas of developed areas, fragmented habitat and intensively farmed areas. The rule takes effect in 30 days.

The rule, with related materials and maps, is available at <http://www.regulations.gov> or at [http:// www.fws.gov/sacramento](http://www.fws.gov/sacramento)