

Nocturnal Auditory Amphibian Survey Protocol

When to Perform Surveys

Nocturnal auditory surveys for amphibians are conducted along passable roadways to rapidly add new localities and monitor amphibian species that are cryptic and/or occur less frequently on public lands. The majority of amphibians of interest for calling surveys in eastern Montana will call after and during rains on warmer spring and summer evenings.

Survey Methodology

Call surveys involve slowly driving roads in the evening and nights immediately following or during significant rainfall events while listening for species' breeding calls. Vehicles should be stopped every mile or two in low lying areas suitable for containing pooled water; a GPS unit may be of assistance in locating stream crossings or water bodies most likely to contain suitable habitat. At each stop observers should listen for species' breeding calls for 5 minutes without interference from vehicle noise before moving on. The location of each stop is noted on standard data forms and at each stop where species are detected, the compass bearing and distance to the breeding choruses is documented; likely breeding sites are subsequently identified in the office using digital topographic maps and high resolution aerial photographs. Starting point, ending point, and survey route are recorded in the comments in order for these survey routes to be digitized in the office.

Data should be entered into Survey123 Nocturnal Calling Survey Form