

2015 was a great year of hiking, navigating, puddle-jumping, water-wading, amphibian-catching, data collecting and critter-paparazzi-ing. Volunteer efforts were a significant contribution to the 2015 field season and to the first large-scale amphibian monitoring effort in the region! We are excited about thier results and the attention and support this effort is gaining from regional and national partners. Citizen scientists are collecting high-quality scientific data and making tracking of amphibian populations across large landscapes possible for the first time in the Rocky Mountain Region. We absolutely could not do this without them. Below is a summary of preliminary results from the 2015 field season

Number of catchments available for adoption: 37

Number adopted: 30

Number surveyed: 26 (last year: 18)

Number of sites surveyed: 107 (last year: 90)

Number of surveys done at all sites in all catchments: 215 (last year: 174)

Minimum number of surveyors who participated: 86 (last year: 78)

Minimum miles hiked by participants: 310 (last year: 273)

Total individuals of amphibians counted: 403 (last year: 555)

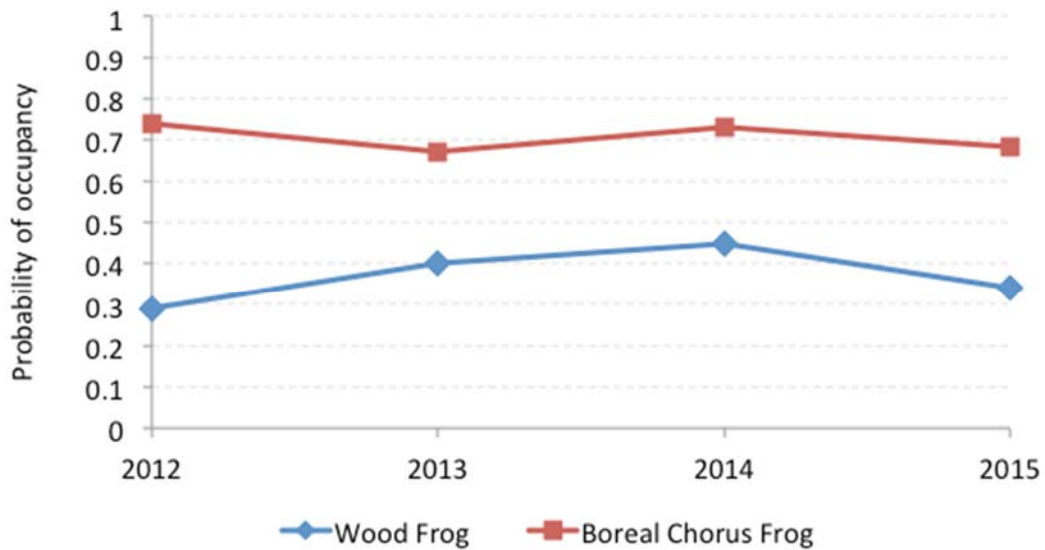
Average daily temperature on days of surveys: 69 degrees F

Average cloud cover on days of surveys: 0-25%

A very exciting product of this year's work - Volunteers photographed a tadpole at a catchment in the Sierra Madres that, once the species ID is confirmed, will either expand the range of one species to a new mountain range or will confirm that a species previously thought gone from the area does still occur there.

The graph attached shows the occupancy trends for two species (Wood Frog in blue and Boreal Chorus Frog in red) in the Medicine Bow National Forest from 2012-2015. Do you see any patterns or trends? What might cause the numbers to vary from year to year? What would you predict next year's numbers to show?

Amphibian occupancy trends on the Medicine Bow National Forest, Wyoming



Occupancy estimates in catchments monitored as part of the Rocky Mountain Amphibian Project. Catchments were surveyed by biologist and biological technicians in 2012 (n = 14), 2013 (n = 18), and by both biological technicians and citizen scientists in 2014 & 2015 (n = 18). Results are preliminary.