

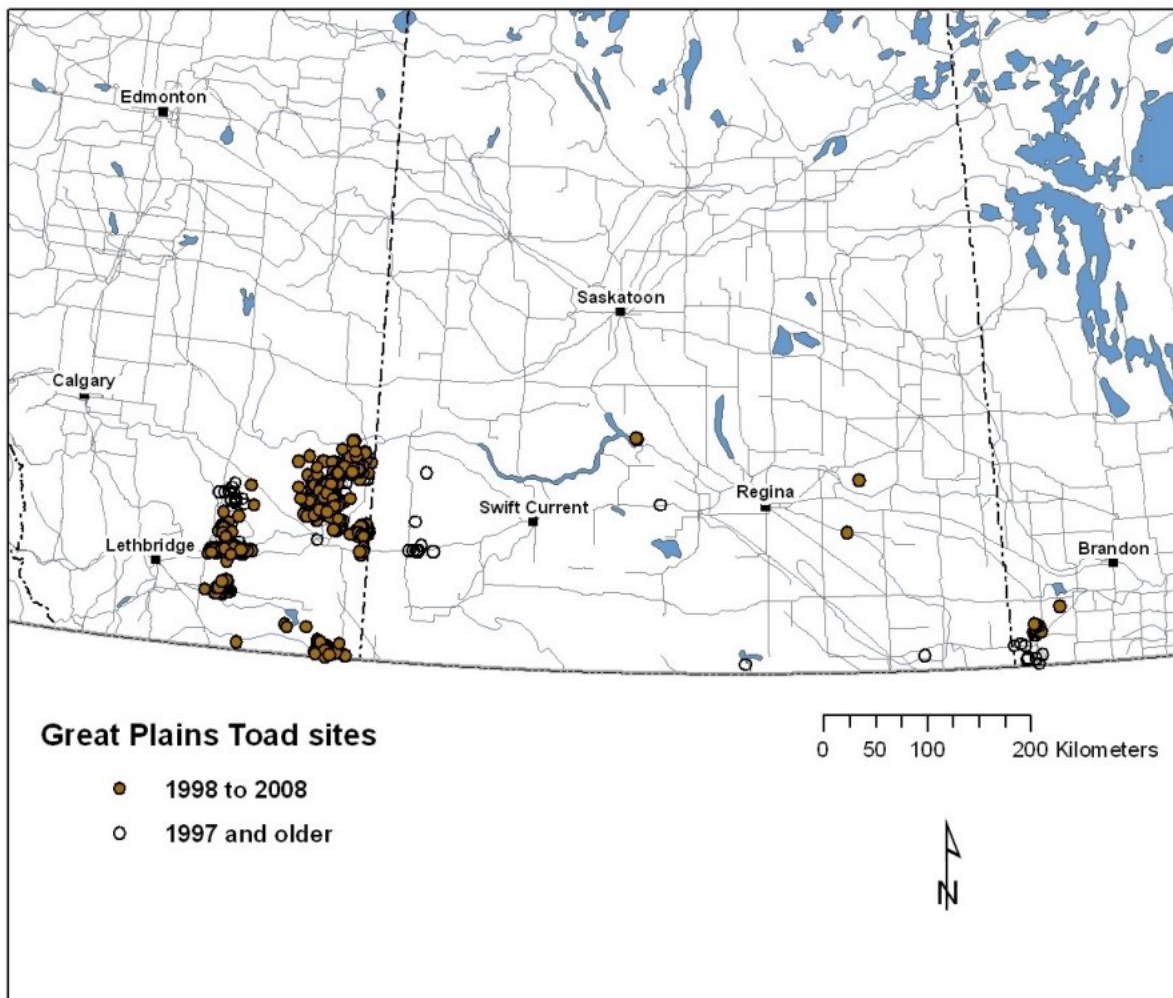


Species at Risk Profile Series: Great Plains Toad



- Great Plains Toads are listed as special concern in Canada.
- They can be identified by their large size, 'L'-shaped ridges behind their eyes, and dark patches on a grey or brown back.
- They have an exceptionally loud call that some say resembles a jackhammer.
- They are nocturnal and burrow underground, allowing them to live in dry environments.
- They overwinter by digging a burrow below the frost line and staying there until spring.
- They are only active from about April to September, and live for 10 years or more.
- They do not reach sexual maturity in Canada until they are 3-5 years old.
- They are found exclusively in dry, native grasslands.
- They breed in clean, shallow runoff pools and ditches in the spring.
- Eggs hatch after about four days and tadpoles metamorphose in 18-49 days, depending on temperature.





Conservation

- Loss of their habitat, native prairie, to cultivation continues to be their greatest threat.
- Vehicles and farm implements kill a significant number of toads.
- Pesticide use may directly poison them or may reduce their potential food supply.
- The spread of chytrid fungus, an amphibian disease, is a potential threat.
- Toads sometimes fall into holes or depressions (such as cattle tracks) and are unable to climb back out.

Get involved

- Read the assessment and status report for Great Plains Toads [here](#).

Photo credit: Great Plains Toad by USFWS Mountain-Prairie retrieved from <https://www.flickr.com/photos/usfwsmtnpairie/15469071105> licensed under CC-BY 2.0 <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/> (front)
 Range map credit: COSEWIC. 2010. COSEWIC assessment and status report on the Great Plains Toad *Anaxyrus cognatus* in Canada. Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada. Ottawa. vi + 54 pp. (www.sararegistry.gc.ca/status/status_e.cfm).