

Frog protection has trout backers up in arms



The yellow-legged frog protection is becoming more controversial. Photo/Vance Vredenburg/Associated Press/1969

By Louis Sahagun, Los Angeles Times

A federal proposal to make the Sierra Nevada as comfortable as possible for some of their rarest amphibian inhabitants has stirred a backlash from business owners over the economic pain it could cause the region's recreation industry.

Many opponents worry the proposal would do more to protect frogs and toads than nonnative trout – a top tourist draw in mountain resort communities where cash registers ring up purchases by vacationers, hikers and fishing enthusiasts this time of year.

The controversy hinges on a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service proposal to designate roughly 2 million acres in 16 Northern California counties as critical habitat for the Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog, the mountain yellow-legged frog and the Yosemite toad.

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