Sierra's yellow-legged frogs are making a comeback

By Louis Sahagun, Los Angeles Times

In the 1950s, California wildlife authorities used to fly over remote lakes and creeks in Yosemite National Park and deliver precious cargo: hatchery-raised trout.

The policy was great for fishing enthusiasts. But for the yellow-legged frogs that shared those waters, the arrival of hungry trout was a disaster.

These days, wildlife officials are using helicopters to transport the fist-sized frogs to some of the very same waters, which are now being rid of non-native trout.

It's part of a strategy that has helped the frog population grow at a rate of 11 percent a year since 1991, according to a report this month in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

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