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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0504

COMMITTEE ON
NATURAL RESOURCES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATER AND POWER
CHAIRMAN

SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS
AND ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

June 24, 2013

Public Comments Processing
Attn: FWS-R8-ES-2012-0074
Division of Policy and Directives Management
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
4401 N. Fairfax Drive, MS 2042-PDM
Arlington, VA 22203

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to provide comments regarding the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's proposal to list the Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog and the northern distinct population segment of the mountain yellow-legged frog as endangered species, the Yosemite toad as a threatened species, and designate critical habitat of these species.

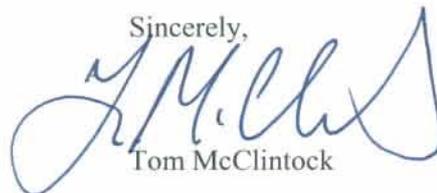
These listings and the associated critical habitat will impact over two million acres of private, state, and federal land. Critical habitat designations will likely cause severe restrictions on land access and could limit or forbid activities such as grazing, trout stocking, logging, mining, and recreational use, resulting in a devastating impact on the local economy.

USFWS has acknowledged in the proposed rule that recreational activities, grazing, pack stocking, logging, road construction, and fire management have, at most, a minimal impact on the population of these species. In fact, USFWS cites only two primary reasons for their decline in population: non-native trout stocking programs in high-elevation watersheds and lakes, and the introduction of the *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis* (Bd) fungus, neither of which is cured by a wholesale shutdown of economic activity in the area.

Furthermore, the necessity and effectiveness of these listings remain unclear, because the USFWS seems to underestimate the adequacy of at least two already-existing protections. First, a large number of mountain yellow-legged frog locations within wilderness areas is already afforded habitat protection via the Wilderness Act. Second, USFWS seems to be discounting the protections afforded to the mountain yellow-legged frog under the California Endangered Species Act.

Because of the far-reaching and damaging effects these listings and critical habitat designation would have on constituents of the Fourth Congressional District of California and its neighboring communities, I submit these comments in opposition. This proposal would close the region to any conceivable productive activity and devastate its already-crippled economy, while having a minimal, if any, positive impact on the frog and toad populations.

Sincerely,



Tom McClintock

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