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Bringing threatened frogs back to southern Alberta wetlands

After 35 year hiatus, Northern Leopard frogs return to Pincher Creek area park

Pincher Creek... The Government of Alberta has released 11,000 Northern Leopard frogs at Beauvais Lake Provincial Park, near Pincher Creek. This is the first time this threatened species has been observed in the park since 1974.

Northern Leopard frog populations across much of western Canada declined sharply in the 1970s and scientists are still trying to determine the cause.

In partnership with the Alberta Conservation Association, egg masses from Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park were transferred to Beauvais Lake Provincial Park where staff used nurseries to hatch the frogs and then release them into the wetland in June. Staff will monitor the frog population over time to assess the success of the reintroduction.

“We are very excited to see the frogs returning to Beauvais Lake Provincial Park,” said Cindy Ady, Minister of Tourism, Parks and Recreation. “This species of frog is threatened in Alberta and a lot of hard work is going towards rebuilding its population.”

The Northern Leopard Frog Recovery Team has developed a recovery plan that includes reintroductions at 10 sites, habitat protection and population and habitat monitoring.

“The recovery team brings together experts from government, municipalities, conservation groups and agriculture, which shows how deeply committed Albertans are to maintaining our province’s biodiversity,” said Minister of Sustainable Resource Development Ted Morton.

To learn more about the Northern Leopard frog, visit www.srd.gov.ab.ca/fishwildlife/wildlifeinalberta/amphibiansalberta/northernleopardfrog.aspx

For information on Beauvais Provincial Park, visit www.AlbertaParks.ca.

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