



Monitoring Protocol

Prior to Arrival:

- Practice listening to the calls of frogs and toads you may hear during that time of year.
- Prepare and pack your FrogWatch USA monitoring equipment kit.
- Plan to initiate all monitoring sessions 30 minutes (or later) after sunset

Upon Arrival:

- Respect the area in which you are in and minimize any disturbance.
- Stay five feet (1.5 meters) from the edge of the main water body when monitoring your site.
- Note any changes to your site (i.e., localized flooding, mowing, or other habitat alteration) and enter this information in the Notes section of the Datasheet.
- Silence all electronic equipment (cell phone, stopwatch, wristwatch, etc.)
- Enter the date and all required volunteer and site information on the FrogWatch USA Datasheet.
- Measure and record all weather information required on the FrogWatch USA Datasheet.

Monitoring:

- Sit or stand quietly for at least 2 minutes before initiating the monitoring session so the frogs and toads acclimate to your presence. Use your stopwatch or wrist watch to accurately time this duration.
- Monitoring sessions are exactly 3 minutes in duration. Use your stopwatch or wrist watch to accurately time this duration.
- Cup your hands around your ears and listen for precisely 3 minutes.
- Remain quiet and still during the entire 3 minute monitoring session.
- Listen to, identify, and remember all breeding calls occurring in the session.
- If the monitoring session is interrupted by noise (airplane, dog running by, etc.) it must be restarted (including the 2 minute acclimation period).

Data Recording:

- Immediately following the termination of the 3-minute monitoring session, enter the start and stop times of the monitoring session.
- List all species heard during the monitoring session.
- Rate the call intensity for each of these species.
- If no calls were heard during the monitoring session, enter "No Calls Heard" in the Species field of the Datasheet.

Data Submission:

FrogWatch USA Datasheets must be completed in their entirety and should be entered into FrogWatch's FieldScope page. If you cannot for any reason, please get your data sheet to your chapter coordinator and they will submit it for you.