

Species Habitat Evaluation for the Amargosa Toad in Nevada

Landowner/Operator: _____ County: _____ Date: _____
 Farm No.: _____ Tract: _____ USGS Quad Name: _____
 Field(s): _____ Acres: _____ Section: _____ Township: _____ Range: _____
 Assisted By: _____

An NRCS Area Biologist should be contacted before attempting to use this form

Habitat: The Amargosa toad is found only within the Oasis Valley of Nye County and primarily occurs in association with riparian and wetland habitats and adjacent upland areas. Amargosa toads are known to occur in close association with humans, using human disturbances and man-made structures as shelter. The Amargosa toad requires clean, open water that may be either flowing or ponded. Suitable waters must have a pH of 6.8 to 8.4, have a temperature range of 43 to 86° Fahrenheit, and be near saturation with oxygen (O₂). Woody vegetation, rocks, natural caves, man-made/artificial shelter, and rodent burrows are essential habitat features used as daytime retreats and escape cover. Moist areas are required for re-hydration of adult toads.

Food: The Amargosa toad is presumed to feed primarily on terrestrial insects and other invertebrates (e.g., spiders, scorpions).

Species Habitat Evaluation: Amargosa Toad

FACTOR	COMPONENTS	HABITAT VALUE RATING	PRESENT	PLANNED
Extent of Riparian or Wetland Areas	More than 60% of area evaluated supports riparian or wetland vegetation	1.0		
	40 to 60% of area evaluated supports riparian or wetland vegetation	0.5 to 0.9		
	Less than 40% of area evaluated supports riparian or wetland vegetation	0 to 0.4		
Proximity to Open Water	More than 40% of wetland/riparian area is immediately adjacent to open water.	1.0		
	20 to 40% of wetland/riparian area is immediately adjacent to open water.	0.5 to 0.9		
	Less than 20% of wetland/riparian area is immediately adjacent to open water.	0 to 0.4		

Species Habitat Evaluation: Amargosa Toad *(continued)*

FACTOR	COMPONENTS	HABITAT VALUE RATING	PRESENT	PLANNED
Grazing Management	Evaluation area is not grazed by domestic livestock, wildhorses or burros	1.0		
	Grazing management meets NRCS practice standard and specifications and meets objectives required to maintain Amargosa toad populations (<i>i.e., periods of grazing and rest are identified; utilization levels of herbaceous vegetation established and maintained</i>).	0.5 to 0.9		
	Grazing management does <u>not</u> meet NRCS conservation practice standard and specifications. Uncontrolled use by wildhorses or burros	0 to 0.4		
Noxious/Invasive Plant Species	No noxious or invasive plant species present	1.0		
	Tamarisk, or other aggressive noxious or invasive plant species with less than 5% canopy or foliar cover	0.5		
	Tamarisk, or other aggressive noxious or invasive plant species with 5% or more canopy or foliar cover	0 to 0.4		
Foliar Cover of Perennial Herbaceous Vegetation	More than 75% foliar cover	1.0		
	51 to 75% foliar cover	0.5 to 0.9		
	26 to 50% foliar cover	0.1 to 0.4		
	Less than 25% foliar cover	0		
Cover	More than 3% rock (>10" diameter) cover or cover from natural woody debris	1.0		
	1 to 3% rock (>10" diameter) or natural woody debris cover	0.5 to 0.9		
	Less than 1% rock (>10" diameter) or natural woody debris cover	0 to 0.4		
Artificial Shelter Sites	More than 10% cover of materials such as lumber, sheet metal, or debris from human sources	1.0		
	5 to 10% cover of materials such as lumber, sheet metal, or debris from human sources	0.5 to 0.9		
	Less than 5% cover of materials such as lumber, sheet metal, or debris from human sources	0 to 0.4		

Species Habitat Evaluation: Amargosa Toad *(continued)*

FACTOR	COMPONENTS	HABITAT VALUE RATING	PRESENT	PLANNED
<p>Prey Base <i>("Suitable" prey habitat is defined as "100-meter walking transects through occupied or potential toad habitat yields observations of a minimum of 10 potential prey species and 75 potential prey items; transects are conducted between March and October when air temperatures exceed 80° F.)</i></p>	<p>More than 75% of evaluation area supports "suitable" prey habitat for toads</p>	<p>1.0</p>		
	<p>50 to 75% of evaluation area supports "suitable" prey habitat for toads</p>	<p>0.5 to 0.9</p>		
	<p>Less than 50% of evaluation area supports "suitable" prey habitat for toads</p>	<p>0 to 0.4</p>		

Habitat Evaluation Score for Amargosa Toad =

NOTES: