



Managing Invasive Bullfrogs

FWCP Events, Khaylish Fraser, Aquatics Program Coordinator



Welcome

I would like to acknowledge that I am joining from the
unceded territories of the Ktunaxa, Syilx, Secwépemc,
and Sinixt First Nations

Central Kootenay Invasive Species Society

Non-profit with a mission to protect our ecosystems and communities by preventing and reducing the harmful impacts of invasive species



Agenda – Managing Invasive Bullfrogs

- History of introduction & spread
- Regional introduction & actions
- Collaborative control efforts
- Negative impacts
- How to identify, prevent, & report



History of Introduction

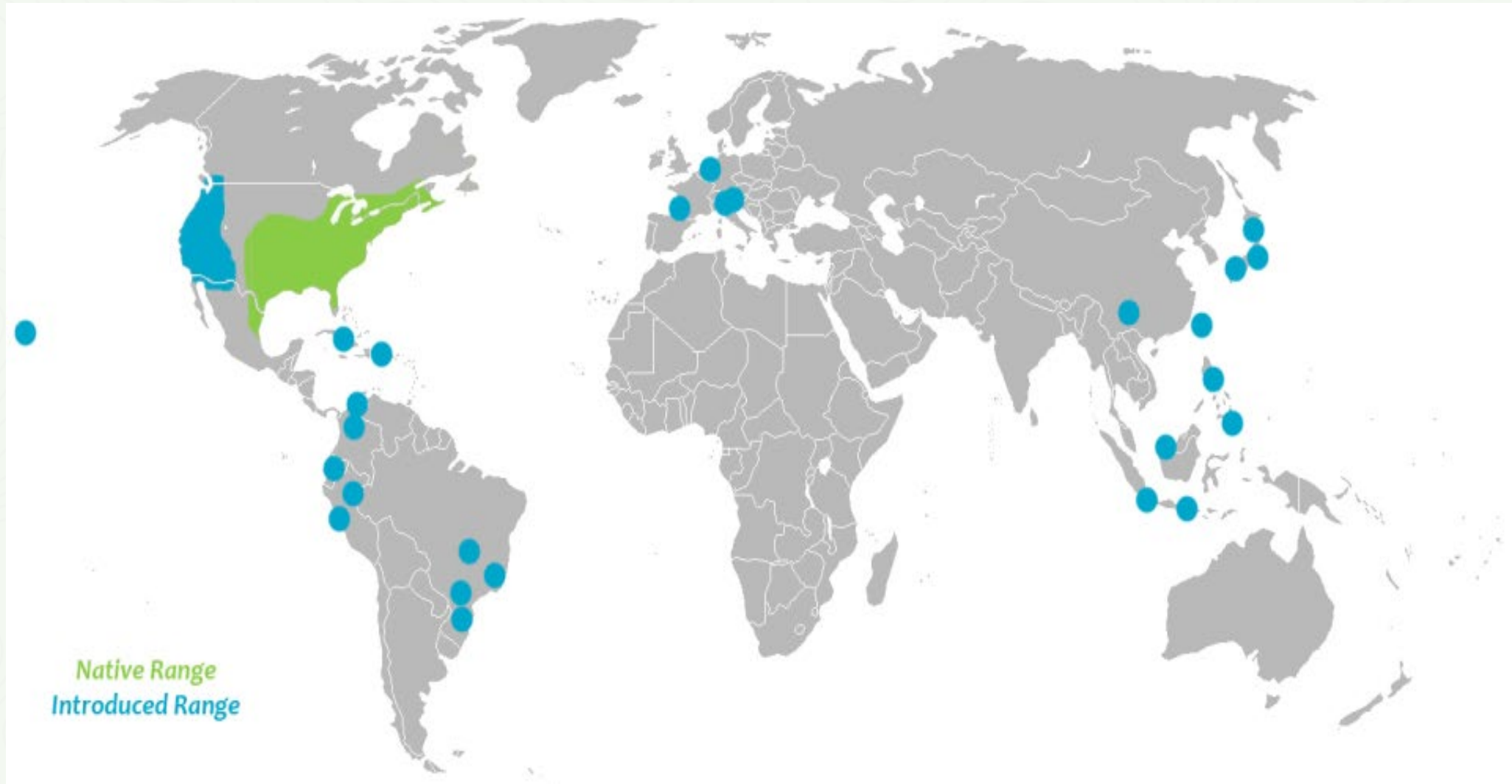
- Introduced throughout western USA in early 1900s by settlers as game species
- Failed captive rearing for restaurants in Lower Mainland & Vancouver Island – fully established since mid 1900s
- Spread/introduction from:
 - pet industry, insect control (US), fish stocking (US), recreational transport
- Natural migration outside native range; use rivers and wetlands as migration corridors



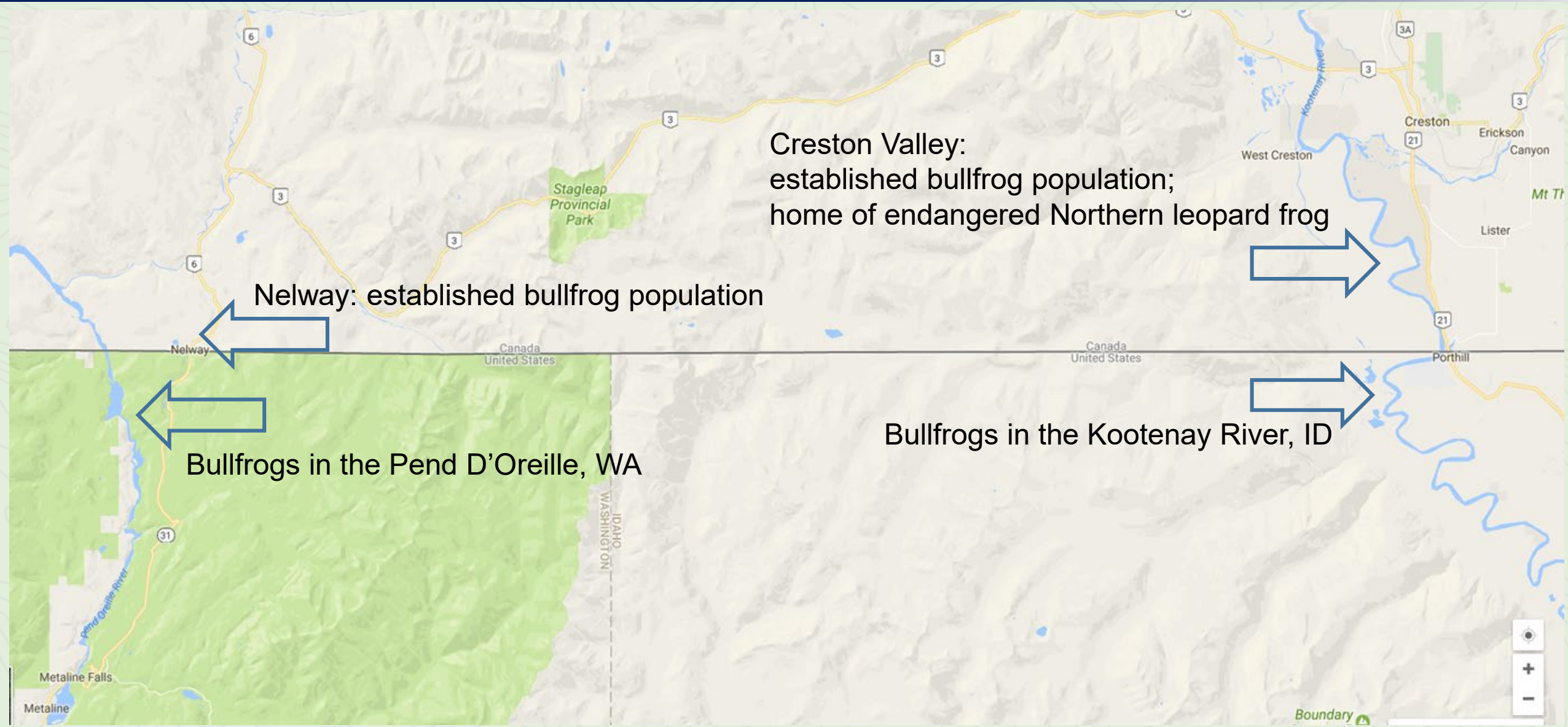
Natural Range



Expanded Range



Regional Range



Bullfrog Timeline - Regionally

2013: close proximity of bullfrogs in ID & WA causes concern amongst CA organizations (Kudos to Angus Glass for spotting bullfrogs south of Nelway!)

2014: Northern Leopard Frog Recovery Team & CKISS install/monitor acoustic surveillance equipment in S. Creston; no bullfrogs detected

2015: 1st bullfrog detection in region, Nelway; American Bullfrog Action Team created; control efforts begin

2016: 2nd bullfrog detection in region, Creston; control efforts continue

2017: development of a regional Early Detection – Rapid Response Plan; control efforts continue

2018: results of breeding event detected in Creston; control efforts continue

Success Needs Collaboration

- Bullfrogs know no jurisdictional boundaries - multi-agency and cross-border collaboration is essential!
- American Bullfrog Action Team: Canada & USA FNs, Govs., NGOs, non-profits, private landowners
- Collaborative platform for planning and decision review. Provides expertise and consultation on bullfrog ecology, inventory, treatment, and monitoring



M. Morrison

Negative Impacts of Bullfrogs

- Spread diseases that threaten native amphibians
- Outcompete native species for food & habitat
- Multiply rapidly - up to 20,000 eggs

Northern leopard frogs 2000 – 4000 eggs

- Reduce biodiversity & alter ecosystem dynamics
- Eat ANYTHING that fits in their mouth (video)



C. Goodwin



Bullfrog Identification



Gary Nafis

Arrowhead-shaped body; black polka-dots, back, sides, tail; very large - up to 15 cm long



C. Howe

Look for the circular "eardrum"

"Smooth" back: no dorsal folds or warts; no white stripe



M. Morrison



Males: low boat in breeding season



Andrew C.



A Bellowing Bullfrog

a video shot with the

***Olympus 150-400 mm
with the 1.25X TC***

***with
Joe McDonald***

How You Can Help

- Never transport tadpoles or frogs
- Never release unwanted pets into the wild
- Report sightings of American bullfrog



How to Report Sightings

Kootenay Boundary American Bullfrog Control Program

EMAIL: kootenaybullfrog@gov.bc.ca

PHONE: 250-354-6333

Include location & date, take a photo





For more information

www.ckiss.ca
info@ckiss.ca