

GOPHER FROG

Rana capito

ID TIPS Medium-sized frog with gray to brownish back with small dark gray to black spots; warty skin texture with distinct folds along the sides of its body. Its belly is white, cream, or yellowish with dark mottling.

CALL Low-pitched snore or growl, sometimes given underwater.

HABITAT Isolated, fish-free, ephemeral wetlands are breeding grounds for this frog. Adult frogs remain secluded in terrestrial habitats in upland burrows or stump holes.

BREEDING Occurs from mid-February to mid-March. Large egg masses are attached to submerged stems, usually in water around 2-3 feet deep.

FOOD Invertebrates such as spiders, beetles, and crickets.

ACTIVITIES & STRATEGIES

Retain old stumps.

Reduce woody encroachment in ephemeral wetlands.

Frequent prescribed fire in longleaf pine stands every 2-3 years.

Thin to keep the canopy open. If there is an isolated wetland in longleaf stand, thin around the edges.

TIMING

Prescribed burns should take place during the historical time of fire in the longleaf ecosystem, from May through July.



CONSERVATION STATUS

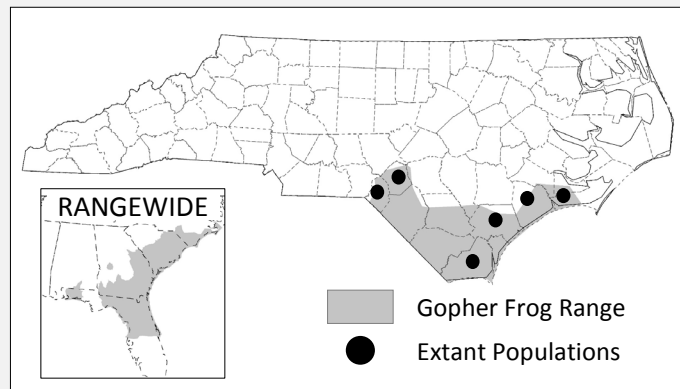
State endangered,
Federal at-risk species

FOREST USE AT A GLANCE

Ephemeral ponds and
adjacent longleaf pine uplands

SPECIES RANGE

Southeastern North Carolina is the
northern limit of the gopher frog range.



DID YOU KNOW?

Gopher frogs can live up to 6-10 years, spending most of that time underground.