

The Story of Wyoming Toad 4F21



Written and Illustrated by Mason Lee

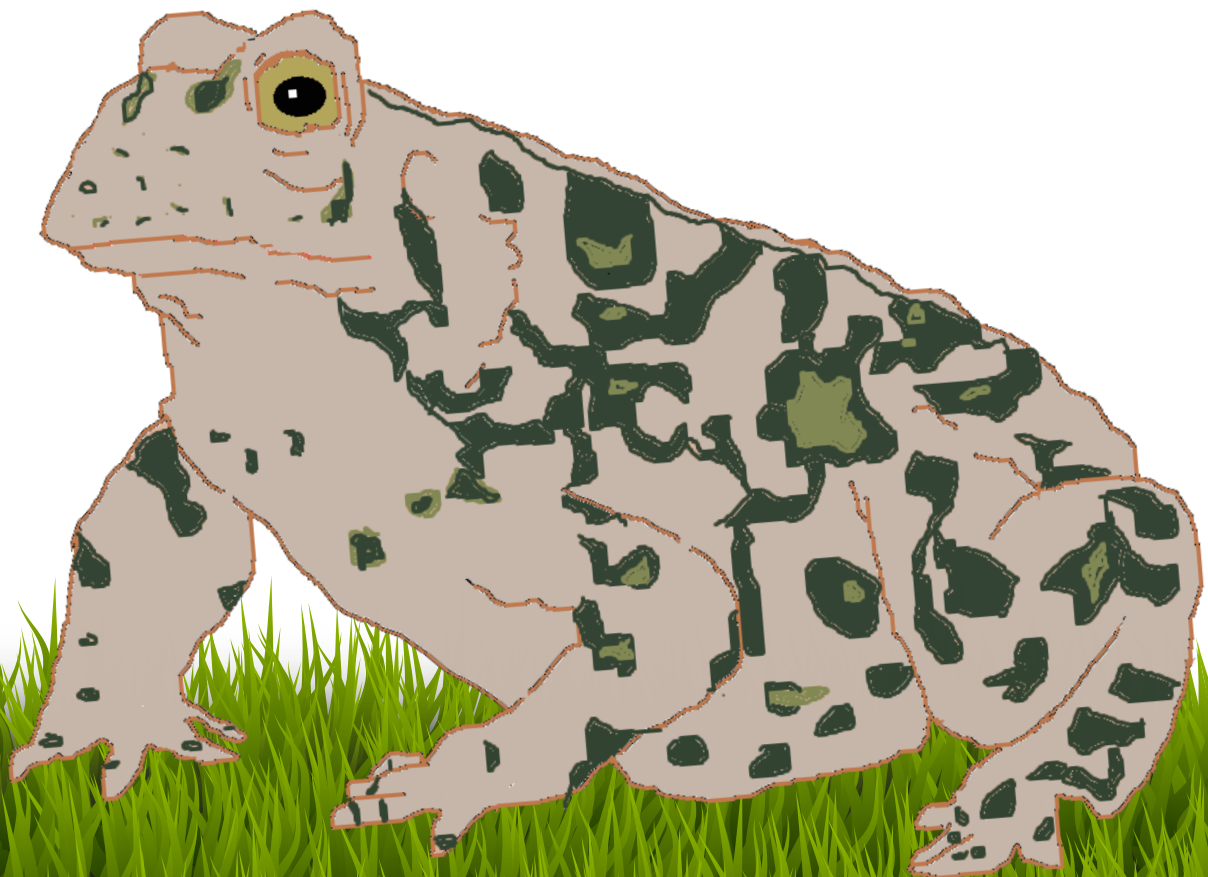
Data Collected by Rachel Arrick



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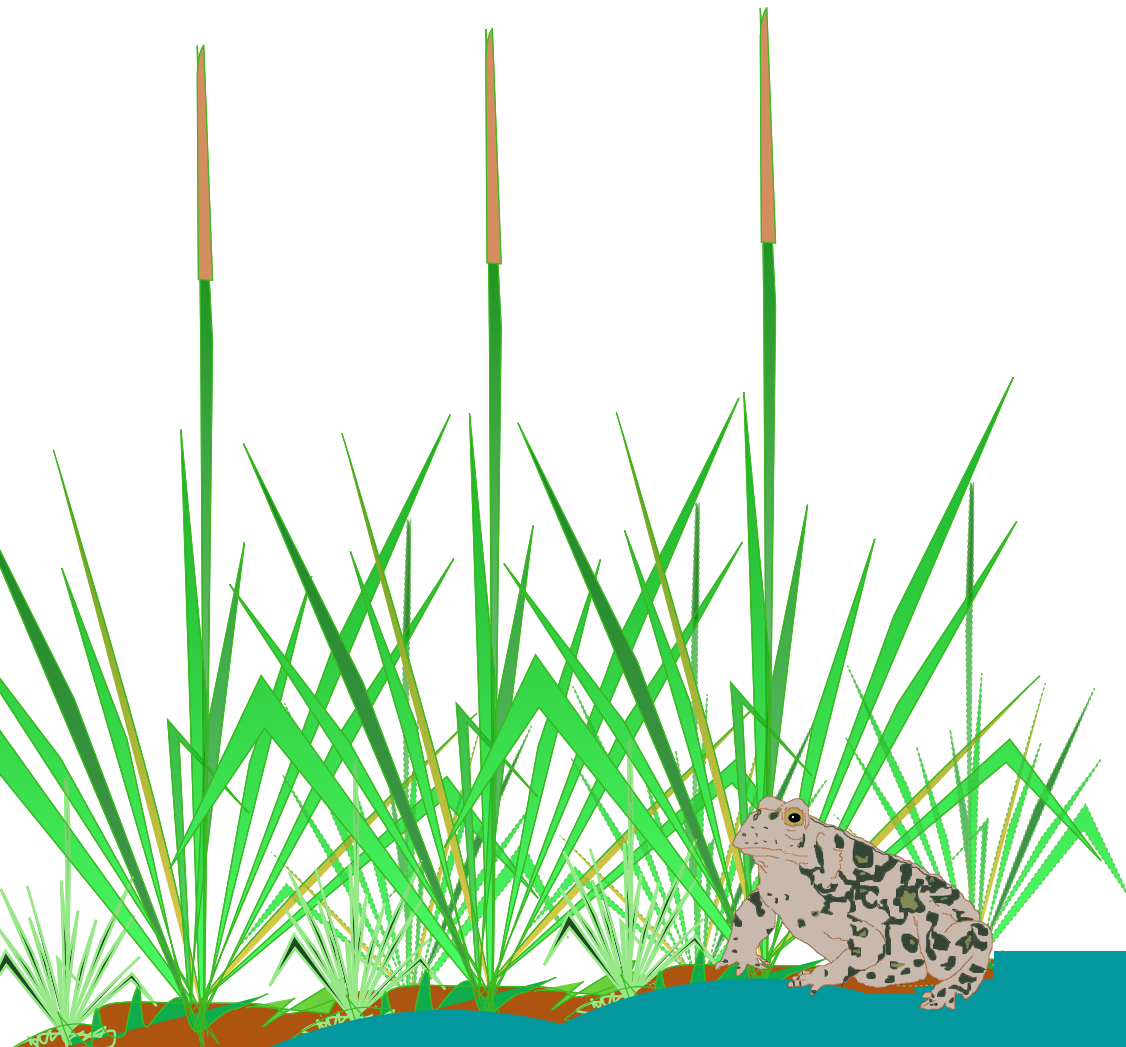
My name is 4F21, and I'm a Wyoming toad! I have an unusual name because I'm part of a research study that will help scientists protect my species. Us Wyoming toads only live in the Laramie area, but we started to disappear many years ago because of disease and changes to our home.



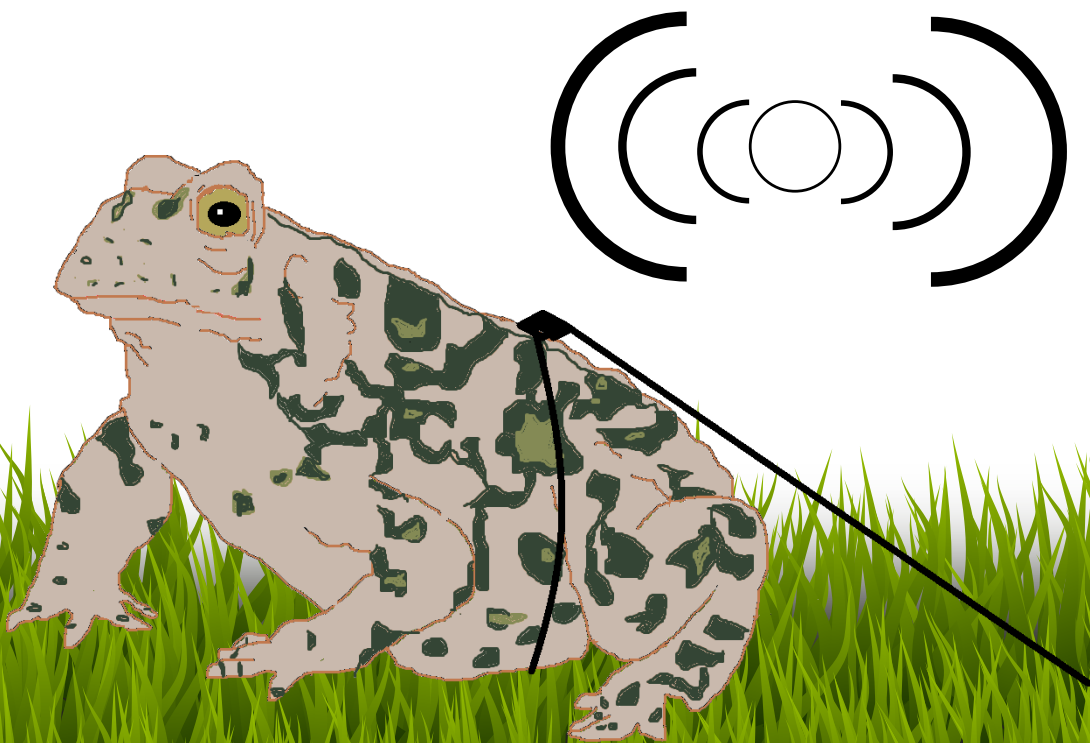
We became so endangered, in fact, that we actually went extinct in the wild! Luckily, 10 of my ancestors were saved and brought to zoos. There are so many of us in captivity now that the United States Fish and Wildlife Service has been releasing us back into the wild!



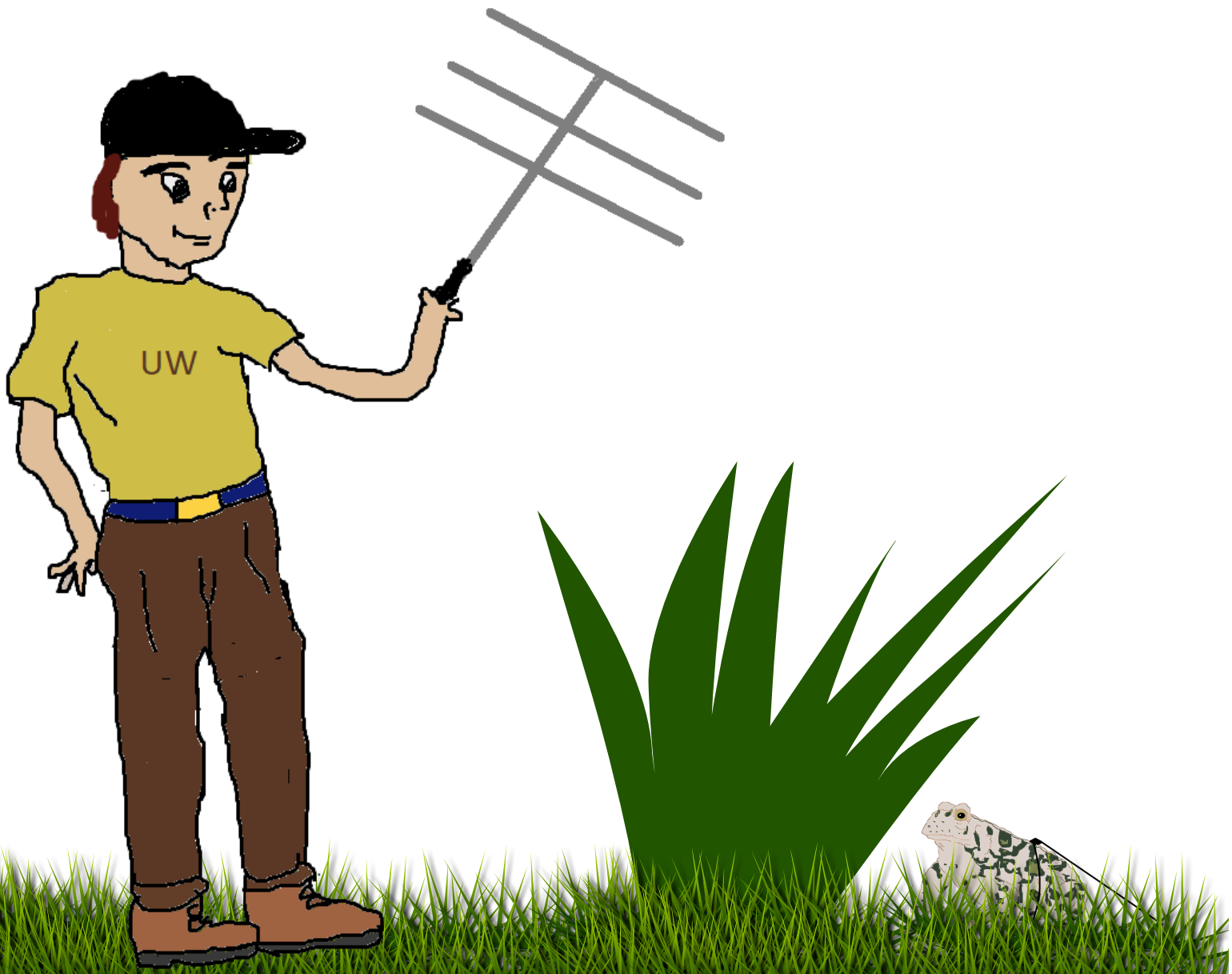
Landowners have done a great job of providing good habitat for us. However, we are very secretive and like to remain hidden, so scientists don't really know where we go once we are released. They need to know where we go so that they can provide us with the best possible home!



That's where I come in! Researchers at the University of Wyoming have been putting these stylish belts on some of us. The belt isn't just a fashion choice, though! It helps the researchers find us again, because each of our belts has a special radio signal that it sends out.



The researchers use something called a telemetry antenna and receiver to listen carefully for the beep of our radio signal. When the beeps are loud and clear, the researchers know that we are nearby. They check on us like this every week to see what kind of habitat we are living in, record our location, and make sure that we are staying healthy.



Although I'm only 2 inches long, I can still travel a good distance in search of food, shelter, and friends. Do you want me to show you where I've been?

Hop along and follow me!

