

# Meet the WYOMING TOAD

## 01 *Bufo baxteri*

Meet the Wyoming toad (*Bufo baxteri*), one of the most endangered amphibians in North America! The Wyoming toad is only found in Albany County, Wyoming near Laramie.

## 03 *Recovery Team*

The Wyoming toad existed only in captivity for many years as zoos around the country worked with scientists to successfully rebuild the population. The first annual release of captive-bred Wyoming toads back into the wild occurred in 1995. Thanks to the hard work of the Wyoming Toad Recovery Team, hundreds of Wyoming toads can now be found in their natural habitat on a few protected sites in Albany County!

## 05 *Trackable Tools*

University of Wyoming researchers are working to change this. Before they are released, UW researchers outfit some of the toads with belts. These belts emit a signal that researchers can track, even when the toad is invisible to the human eye. Researchers locate these belted toads once weekly from release to hibernation in order to learn where the toads like to live, how far they travel and how they fight off disease.

## 02

### *Population Decline*

These little toads used to be abundant, but they suffered dramatic population decline in the late 1970s because of disease and changes to their habitat. In 1989, researchers were able to save the last 10 Wyoming toads believed to exist and brought them to zoos in an attempt to save the species.

## 04

### *Hide and Seek*

The Wyoming toad is able to blend in with its environment and hide under mud, layers of thatch or in small mammal burrows. This makes it hard for the recovery team to find and study them! As a result, there is still a lot about the Wyoming toad that scientists do not know.

## 06

### *Time to Thrive*

The information these researchers learn from the belted toads will help them better understand how to protect this special Wyoming species so it can thrive once again in the wild.

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