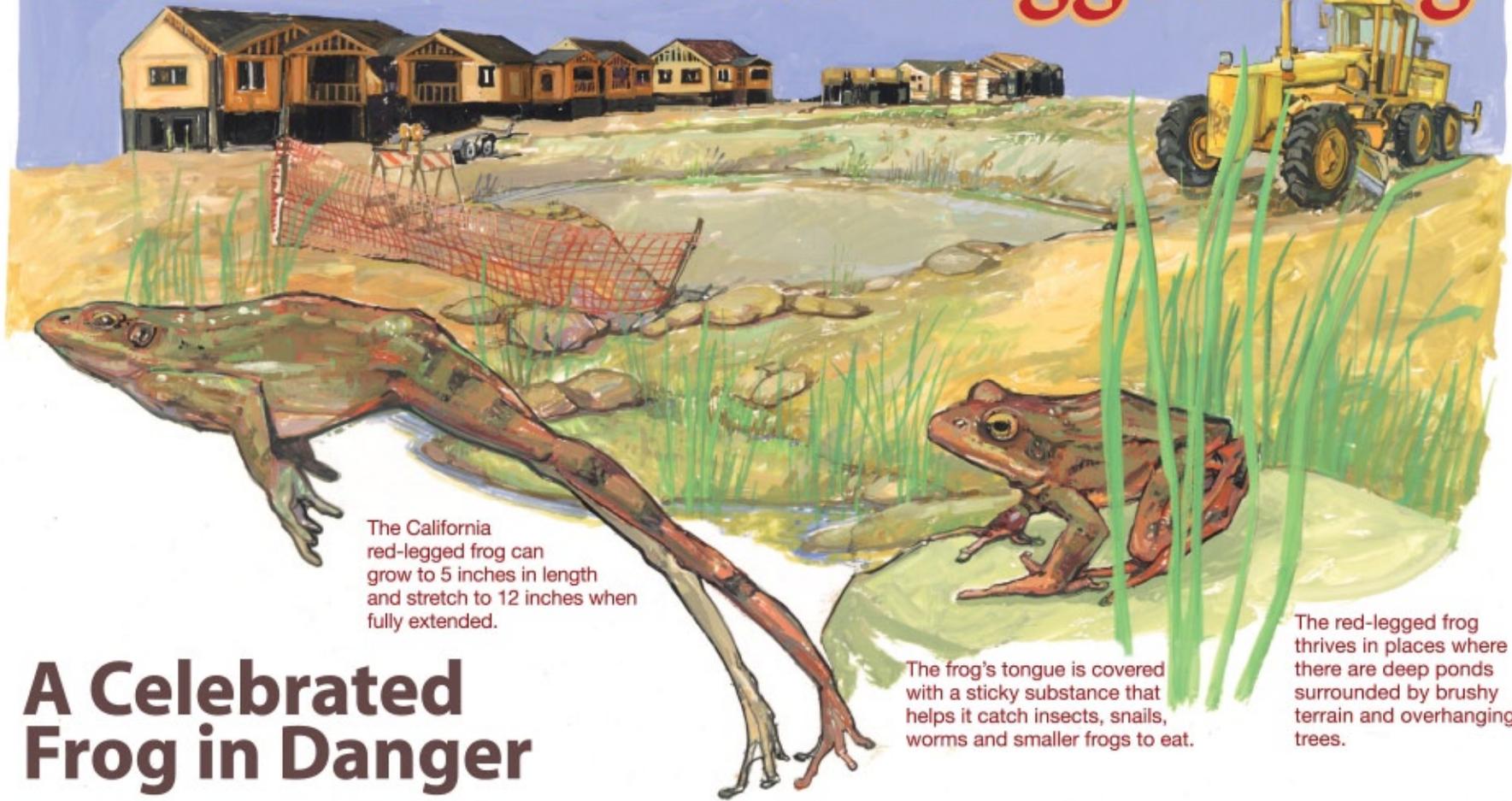


The California Red-legged Frog



The California red-legged frog can grow to 5 inches in length and stretch to 12 inches when fully extended.

The frog's tongue is covered with a sticky substance that helps it catch insects, snails, worms and smaller frogs to eat.

The red-legged frog thrives in places where there are deep ponds surrounded by brushy terrain and overhanging trees.

A Celebrated Frog in Danger

This wetland is home to the California red-legged frog, the largest native frog in the western United States. The gifted "red" frog in Mark Twain's short story "The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County" is believed to have been a red-legged frog. Today, the famous amphibian is in trouble.

Why? Unfortunately, more than two-thirds of the California red-legged frog's original range has been lost to development. Getting eaten is another problem. In the late 1800s and early 1900s, these frogs were considered a tasty dish by miners and settlers. When the red-legged frogs grew scarce, people brought bullfrogs here from the eastern United States, and the larger bullfrog soon began eating the red-legged frogs.

In 1996 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service listed the California red-legged frog as threatened. California State Parks and other agencies are working to protect this California native by restoring its habitat and eliminating non-native predators.

