

RED-EARED SLIDER

Trachemys scripta



Jim, the Photographer, Flickr



USFWS



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CHARACTERISTICS

SIZE:

Adults can be as large as 12 inches.

COLOR:

The color of the carapace (shell) can vary between greenish yellow to grey and brownish and is marked with yellow lines. The underside of the shell is lighter with dark spots. Skin is generally dark green with white or yellow striping. The most distinguishable characteristic is the red stripe behind its eye.

SHAPE:

The carapace is oval shaped with sharp edges and a rough face. The underside is flat and smooth.

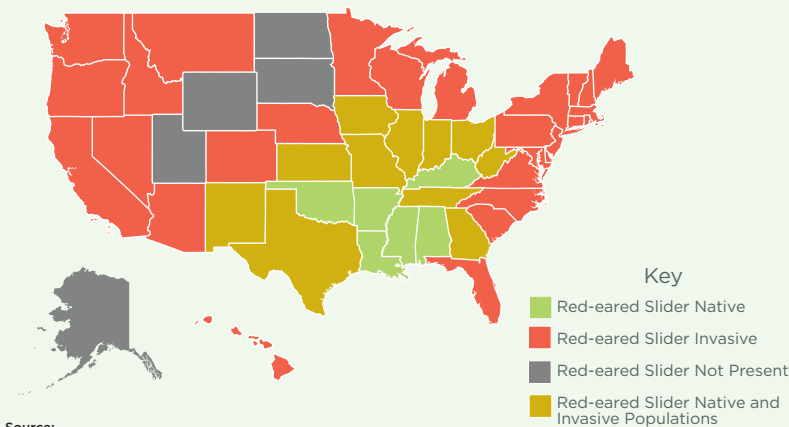
COMMON NAMES:

Red-Eared Slider, Pond Slider.

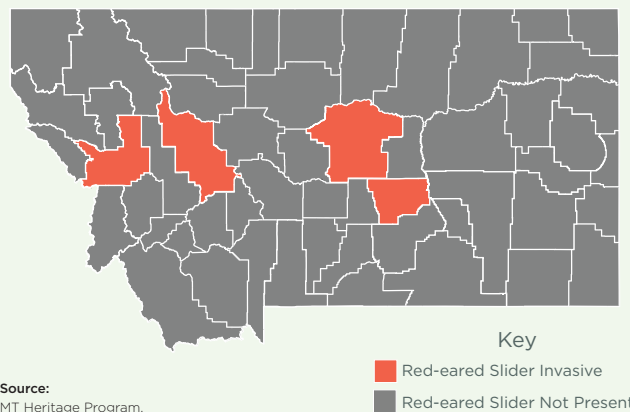
For more detailed information on Protecting Montana Waters from Aquatic Invasive Species visit

<https://fwp.mt.gov/conservation/aquatic-invasive-species>

DISTRIBUTION



Source:
USGS NAS; May 2023



Source:
MT Heritage Program,
observation data; May 2023

HABITAT:

Ponds, lakes, marshes, and in slow-moving rivers that have soft, muddy bottoms.

NATIVE TO:

Southeastern US through Central and South America

PREVENTION AND SPREAD:

A common pet, these species have become an invasive species through abandonment in the wild by owners that no longer want them. The best way to prevent the spread of the species is to not release any pets into the wild.

IMPACTS:

Can spread diseases to native turtles and outcompete native counterparts for resources.

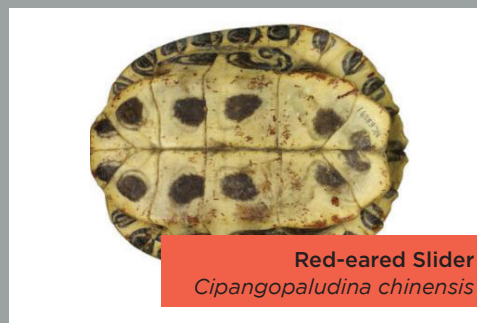
IN MONTANA:

Have been found in ponds in Helena, Missoula, and Billings.

Sources:
Montana Field Guide, Nature Mapping Foundation

NATIVE LOOKALIKES:

Native painted turtle (*Chrysemys picta*) have vibrant colored undersides whereas red-eared sliders do not. Red-eared sliders also have more domed shells.



Andoni Alvarez, Creative Commons



JN Stuart, Flickr

If you see or suspect a new infestation of an invasive plant or animal, please save a specimen, and record the location.

Report observations to Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks at
<https://fwp.mt.gov/conservation/aquatic-invasive-species/report-an-ais>
 Or call the MT FWP front desk at 406-444-2440

