



SURVEYING A NEW SURVEY ROUTE

The Minnesota Frog and Toad Calling Survey has several routes that have never been surveyed by a volunteer. These routes have been mapped but the ten observation sites along them have not been established. If you are surveying one of these routes, you will receive a route map that shows the starting & ending points of the route as well as the roadways along which the stops should be located. Please follow the instructions below to establish the observation sites along your route.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Establish ten observation sites along your route

A new route must be tested before the first survey is made. We recommend designing your route during the day, when your stop choices are not biased by calling frogs (remember, we are as interested in potential breeding habitat without frogs as we are in locations where there are breeding frogs...we are looking at trends over time). First, locate the route on a map and drive to its starting point. As you drive along the route look around for potential amphibian breeding sites. The sites should be **no more than 200 meters off-road** and may include areas such as ponds, shallow wetlands, streams, and roadside ditches. **Try to include a variety of wetland types that represent the range of breeding sites available for the various species in the area.** Consider large and small ponds; open, shrubby and wooded areas; stagnant and flowing streams; and agricultural and urban sites. **DO NOT AVOID** ponds that dry up during the year, for they are often productive during the spring. **DO AVOID** swift moving streams, and deep or denuded shores of lakes.

When looking for sites, it is also important to make sure that the roads are appropriate for stopping along. Make sure that they are not too busy (i.e., heavy traffic, noisy), too dangerous (i.e., hard to access or no safe places to pull over), or on private land. If you find the specific roadways along your route to be inappropriate, the route may be shifted to the nearest set of appropriate roads that travel in the same direction. In this case, please make note of any route changes on the enclosed maps and route description forms.

Designate ten sites that are located at least 0.5 miles from each other. The ten sites become permanent stops on the route and will be used in each of the three survey runs. If you come to the end of the route shown on your provided map without placing all ten stops, simply continue driving in the direction indicated until all ten have been determined.

Surveyors sometimes find that one or more of the sites originally chosen turn out to be unsuitable breeding habitat, or are poor sites because of unforeseen background noise, access problems, safety concerns, etc. In these cases, it is necessary to replace the problem site with a new site sometime after the first survey run. To avoid this, it is recommended that you begin with eleven or twelve sites for the first year and choose the ten most reliable sites for the permanent route. At the end of the first year, report results only for the ten permanent sites.

2. Describe your route.

Mark the precise locations of your ten sites on your route map and describe each observation site and wetland on the enclosed route description form (GPS coordinates are very helpful if possible). Sites should be clearly numbered 1-10 on the map. Also include driving directions to each of these sites using street names, landmarks, comments on where to pull over vs where to listen, etc. The

more details the easier it will be for future volunteers to find the exact stop locations. We will then create a new map for your route once we receive your map, data sheet, and route description.

3. Survey your route.
Please follow the enclosed "*Minnesota Frog and Toad Calling Survey Instructions*" to survey your route.
4. Return the maps and route description with your completed data form to the Minnesota DNR by AUGUST 1st.

If you have any questions about your survey route, please contact:

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Thanks for your help!