UC SANTA BARBARA

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An Unexpected Recovery

For more than two decades, UC Santa Barbara biologist Roland Knapp has been working with mountain yellow-legged frogs in the Sierras. Based at the UCSB-managed Sierra Nevada Aquatic Research Laboratory, he has seen and studied drastic changes in frog populations, watching their numbers dwindle from many thousands to nearly zero at some locations. And now he’s seeing them return.

Aiming to rebuild rapidly disappearing populations of this California native species, Knapp has collaborated with other scientists, wildlife agencies and even zoos to rescue and recover the mountain yellow-legged frogs. Their efforts are paying off: In late 2016, the results of a 20-year study conducted at hundreds of sites in Yosemite National Park showed a seven-fold increase in frog abundance over the study period.

About UC Santa Barbara

The University of California, Santa Barbara is a leading research institution that also provides a comprehensive liberal arts learning experience. Our academic community of faculty, students, and staff is characterized by a culture of interdisciplinary collaboration that is responsive to the needs of our multicultural and global society. All of this takes place within a living and learning environment like no other, as we draw inspiration from the beauty and resources of our extraordinary location at the edge of the Pacific Ocean.