

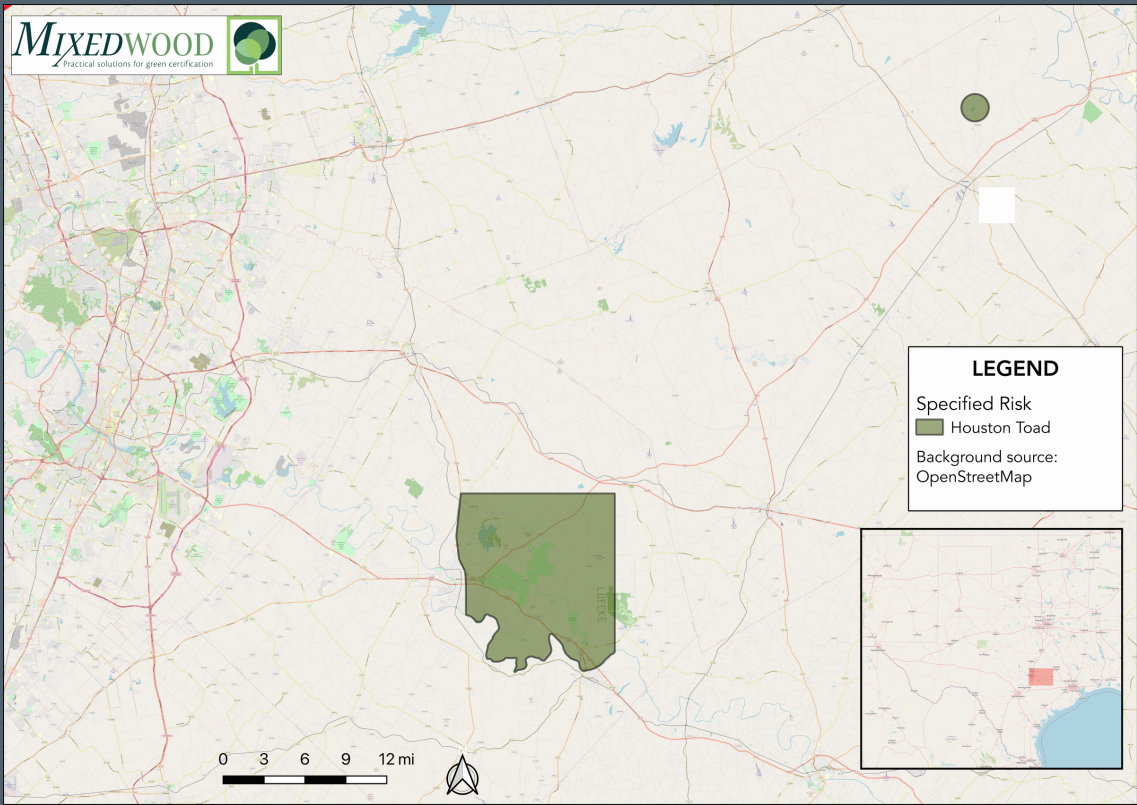
Description

The Houston Toad is native to the central coastal region of Texas. Populations have been found in nine counties, with the largest in Bastrop County. The species is restricted to areas with soft sandy soils, typically with pine forest, but may also be mixed post oak-woodland savannah. Breeding sites include shallow water of roadside ditches, temporary ponds in residential areas and pastures, and other seasonally flooded low areas. This species is federally endangered wherever found and also listed as endangered by the State of Texas.¹

HOUSTON TOAD

Anaxyrus houstonensis

FSC Controlled Wood
Specified Risk Fact Sheet



FSC US Region:
Southeast

Type: species
range

NRA Category:
HCV 3.1

Scope: narrow

¹Forest Stewardship Council. (2018). FSC US Controlled Wood Regional Meeting Report Southeast & Mississippi Alluvial Valley Regions: Atlanta, GA. Retrieved from <https://us.fsc.org/download.controlled-wood-regional-meeting-report-southeast-mississippi-alluvial-valley-regions.a-703.pdf>





High Conservation Value (HCV)

The Houston Toad is considered an HCV because it is a rare species with few remaining populations and very limited distribution. The species was identified through an analysis of the NatureServe dataset, considering criteria including level of imperilment (both global and state scales), taxa (e.g., vertebrate species), forest habitat dependency, and recency of confirmed occurrences.¹

Recommended Mitigation

- **Avoidance:** verified evidence that wood procurement is not active in the identified area.
- **Education & Outreach:** information sharing with landowners, loggers, wood suppliers.
- **Procurement Policy:** supporting and promoting conservation.

Information Sources

- **Texas Parks & Wildlife website**. Wildlife Fact Sheet.
- **US Fish & Wildlife Service website**. Endangered Species Summary.
- **Amphibian Index: The Animal Files**. Animal Encyclopedia website.
- **International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) “Red List”**. Includes references and status.
- **US Fish & Wildlife Service website**. Voluntary Conservation Program to Benefit the Endangered Houston Toad.
- **Amphibian Rescue & Conservation Project website**. “Start Spreading the Word” article from Houston Zoo.

Identification Characteristics

- Males grow to 2–3.5 inches when mature with the female being larger and bulkier.
- Generally brown and speckled, their color can range from black to purplish gray, sometimes with green patches.

