



## **REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS**

### **BOG TURTLE**

#### **ABOUT**

The Bog Turtle is considered to be the smallest turtle native to the United States. It averages in size from 3 inches to a record length of 4.5 inches. Many populations of Bog Turtles now have less than 20 individuals, and some have fewer than 10. Although habitat destruction is the major threat to the Bog Turtle populations, pesticides, fertilizer run-off, water pollution and species collection also have significant impact. Invasion of exotic plants into Bog Turtle habitats in some areas has impacted the turtles by the non-native plants forming dense patches of vegetation, which impede movement and produce shade.

#### **DID YOU KNOW?**

Current management strategies include prevention of the filling or draining of bogs, prohibition of species collection, controlled burns and tree removal to prevent loss of bog habitat. Bog Turtles are omnivorous (eat both animal and vegetable food) and will eat in or out of the water. A bright yellow or orange blotch on each side of its head and neck are a distinctive feature of this species. The body color is dark with an orange-red wash on the inside of the legs of some turtles.

#### **TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE**

What is the major threat to the Bog Turtle population?

- a. People are catching them to eat.
- b. They are being caught and killed.
- c. Habitat destruction.
- d. They are caught and kept as pets.

Answer is C.

