

**From:** [Tortoise Rescue](#)  
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**Subject:** Ninja Turtles  
**Date:** Monday, June 30, 2014 7:06:24 PM  
**Importance:** High

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Ladies and Gentlemen: As you well know, the Asian pols have kept the ban of non native red eared sliders off the table for almost 20 years. Senator Pavley, several years ago Madeline Bernstein from the SPCA LA and I met with your aide to plead for this ban to be implemented as we are overrun with sliders, but this was to no avail – never heard from your aide again. We have not accepted these turtles for years because we are full as are all the turtle rescues which forces people to, out of desperation, dump them in our waterways killing off our own native pond turtle. In my 24 years in the rescue business, I have only seen eight pond turtles as opposed to thousands of sliders. That is totally unacceptable.

Now in August, we face another horrendous hurdle – Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, the animated film. Every time another version of this film comes out since 1990, the rescues are inundated with this the red eared slider because parents cave into the whim of their kids who think real turtles fly and jump and do stunts. While I am implementing a vicious PR campaign to let parents know the risk of salmonella and the fact these animals live for 25 – 50 years (if the parents don't kill them from neglect first), it would have been wonderful if the ban were in place as it was several year ago before the Asian politicians stealthily overturned it behind our backs. I think it was in force about three days.

Please – something has to get you off your duffs to block the small number of Asians who eat turtles as opposed to the hundreds of thousands of turtles coming in every year through the pet trade and markets. There are so many here now, it will supply anyone who wants a slider for 50 years or more. They breed like rabbits. The shark fin ban passed. It should be easy to get this one through now.

By the way Montana outlawed sliders this month as has Oregon and many other states. What's wrong with California?

Respectfully, Susan Tellem, Executive Director, American Tortoise Rescue

PS in case you missed 60 minutes – here's the race to save the tortoise (and our California pond turtle is one too)



Susan M. Tellem, RN, BSN

[www.tortoise.com](http://www.tortoise.com)

[Facebook](#): American Tortoise Rescue

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**From:** [afa@mcn.org](mailto:afa@mcn.org) [mailto:[afa@mcn.org](mailto:afa@mcn.org)]

**Sent:** Monday, June 30, 2014 12:16 PM

**To:** secretary@resources.ca.gov; director@wildlife.ca.gov; fgc@fgc.ca.gov;  
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**Subject:** MONTANA BANS IMPORTATION OF RED-EARED SLIDERS

June 30, 2014

John Laird, Secretary of Resources  
Chuck Bonham, Director, DFW  
Senator Fran Pavley, Chair, Senate Natural Resources Committee  
Assemblymember Anthony Rendon, Chair, Assembly Water, Parks & Wildlife  
Sonke Mastrup, Exec. Director, and members, Fish & Game Commission

Sirs/Madams:

See notice below. Montana is banning "the importation, possession and sale" of red-eared sliders "to protect Montana's native wildlife and plant species." (I presume the reporter meant "reptiles," not "amphibians.")

This is a step which California should have taken long ago. American bullfrogs, too (the majority of which carry the chytrid fungus). The health and well-being of our beleaguered native species depends upon it.

The need for regulations and/or legislation should be abundantly clear by now. Let's act.

Sincerely,

Eric Mills, coordinator  
ACTION FOR ANIMALS  
Oakland

[http://www.choteauacantha.com/news/article\\_87827ee6-dad5-11e3-aa59-001a4bcf887a.html](http://www.choteauacantha.com/news/article_87827ee6-dad5-11e3-aa59-001a4bcf887a.html)



