***Species name:*** *Trachemys Scripta Elegans (Red Eared Slider)*

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***Description:*** The *Red Eared Slider* also known, as the Red Eared Terrapin is a semiaquatic turtle belonging to the Emydidde family. It is a subspecies of a pond slider. It is the most popular pet turtle in the United States & is also popular in the rest of the world.

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***Where it comes from:*** Originates from the Mississippi river near Gulf of Mexico, they prefer hot climates. They were also found in Virginia and Florida.

***How it got here:*** Humans have released them as pets and have introduced them to places where they can thrive as invasive species.

***Why it does so well here:*** They have a tough shell to defend against predators. It's an omnivore. They are aggressive. They spread diseases to other turtles.

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***By Simonnicoleman***

***Who it hurts:*** *The Western Pond Turtle.*

***Effect on other species:*** *Out competes the native western pond turtle in California.*

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***What can we do to minimize damage:*** Stop letting people house them as pets so they don’t escape or get released.

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