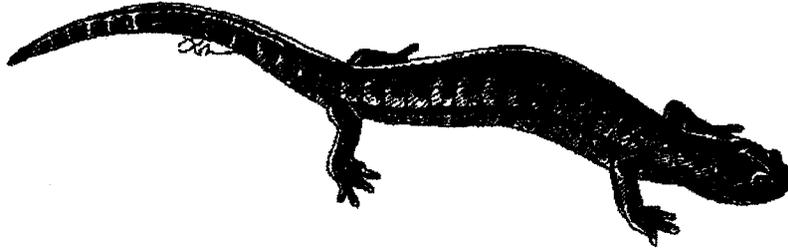


Black Salamander

Aneides flavipunctatus
Family Plethodontidae



Global Rank: G4

State Rank: S2 (OR); S4 (CA)

Distribution: Found from the mountains of Jackson and Josephine Counties, Oregon, south in California to Shasta Lake area. Ranges from near sea level to over 5,500 ft. (1,700 m.) in elevation. Lives in all successional stages of digger pine-oak, chaparral, ponderosa pine, black oak woodland, and mixed-conifer types. Also occur in wet mountain meadows and riparian deciduous types. Not thought to be territorial with suspected home range of about one acre.

Description: Adult black salamanders reach about 2.7 in. (9.4 cm.) in snout-vent body length. Dorsal coloration varies greatly from uniformly black, black with small white flecks, black with large white spots; black with gray, olive, or green spots; or black with many small white spots. Projecting upper-jaw teeth and triangular head, 14-16 costal grooves, short limbs, and rounded toe tips are characteristics. Young are black above, often suffused with olive or green, and yellow bases of limbs. Adult males have heart-shaped mental gland



Current range of the black salamander

and small gray glands on belly.

Reproduction: Approximately 15 (5 to 30) eggs are laid in moist places under surface objects from June through August. Peak activity is in July. Females have been found brooding their eggs in summer.

Food: Feeds on a variety of terrestrial invertebrates, including spiders, snails, slugs, earthworms, beetles, and springtails. The diet varies seasonally, and larger individuals take larger prey items.

Habits: The black salamander is chiefly ground-dwelling, usually found near streams, in talus slopes, or under rocks and logs. It inhabits open woodlands, mixed coniferous, and mixed coniferous-deciduous forests. Although rarely completely immersed in water, it appears to be more tolerant of wet soil than other climbing salamanders.

Management Implications: No known management concerns. Common in preferred habitats.

Important References: Stebbins, R.C. 1985. A field guide to western reptiles and amphibians. The Peterson Field Guide Series, Houghton Mifflin Company, New York, NY; Csuti, B., A.J. Kimerling, T.A. O'Neil, M.M. Shaughnessy, E.P. Gaines, and M.M.P. Huso. 1997. Atlas of Oregon wildlife. Oregon State University Press, Corvallis, OR; Verner, J., and A.S. Boss. 1980. California wildlife and their habitats: Western Sierra Nevada. USDA Pacific Southwest Forest and Range Experiment Station, GTR PSW-37, Berkeley, CA.