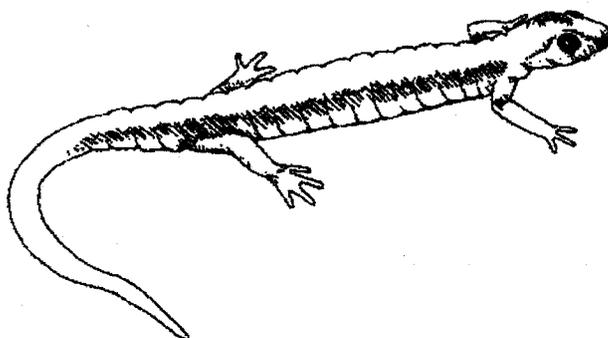


Coeur d'Alene Salamander

Plethodon idahoensis
Family Plethodontidae



BLM Status: Sensitive (ID)
Global Rank: G3
State Rank: S2 (MT); S3 (ID)

Distribution: Formerly considered to be a subspecies of the Van Dyke salamander (*Plethodon vandykei*), the species ranges from northern Idaho to extreme northwestern Montana. There are three known locations in British Columbia, all along the southeastern corner of Kootenay Lake. The salamander extends from approximately 2,000 ft. (700 m.) to over 5,000 ft. (1,550 m.) in elevation.

Description: Adult Coeur d'Alene salamanders reach up to 4 in. (10 cm.) in total length. They are lungless and breathe through their thin, moist skin. They have hairline furrows extending from each nostril to the edge of the upper lip, and well-defined costal grooves along sides. There are no free-living larvae with the young emerging fully formed. Adult coloration has a dorsal stripe of yellow, green, orange, or red with uneven edges, and there is a yellow patch on the throat. The fourth toes on the hindfeet are shorter. Juveniles have a conspic-



*Current range of the
Coeur d'Alene salamander*

uous yellow dorsal stripe, black sides and belly, and yellow throat patch.

Reproduction: Mating occurs in late summer and fall, and occasionally in the spring. Females can store sperm up to nine months before fertilizing eggs. An average of six eggs are laid on land in moist concealed places in April-May. Young emerge in September. Adults first breed in their fourth or fifth years, and females may have biennial reproductive cycles.

Food: Coeur d'Alene salamanders feed primarily on insects and other invertebrates, generally restricting foraging activities to moist spray areas, seeps, or streamside rocks and vegetation.

Habits: Generally found in three major types of habitat: springs or seepages, spray zones of waterfalls, and edges of streams. Habitat is often associated with fractured rock. The salamanders may spend as much as seven months a year underground in cool, moist interstitial spaces between rocks to avoid desiccation in summer and freezing in winter. Activity above ground in the summer is usually nocturnal during moist weather. In northern Idaho, they emerge from winter hibernation in late March and are active near the surface through April and May.

Management Implication: The Coeur d'Alene salamanders are typically aquatic and restricted in movements over terrestrial habitats. Populations are often small and apparently isolated, and a concern exists for their continued viability. Protection of springs and seeps, spray areas at waterfalls, and edges of streams appears important. The widening and improvement of highways along streams may be an important management concern.

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; Cassirer, F., C. Johnson, D. David, and C. Peterson. 1994. The Coeur d'Alene salamander (*Plethodon idahoensis*) in Idaho. Idaho State Conservation Effort, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Boise, ID; Groves, C.R., B. Butterfield, A. Lippincott, B. Csuti, and J.M. Scott. 1997. Atlas of Idaho's wildlife. Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Boise, ID.