

USACE Natural Resource Management Reptiles & Amphibians



California Tiger Salamander

FAST FACTS

REASONS FOR LISTING STATUS: This salamander is listed under the ESA as Threatened in central California and Endangered in Sonoma and Santa Barbara counties of California. The USFWS listed the central California DPS in 2004, the Sonoma county DPS in 2003, and the Santa Barbara DPS in 2000.

Multiple threats have contributed to the decline of this salamander including predation and competition stemming from invasive species, the destruction and fragmentation of habitat, hybridization with barred tiger salamanders, roadway mortality, contaminants, climate change, and the introduction of diseases such as chytrid fungi. (USFWS)

MANAGEMENT AND PROTECTION: In addition to listing the DPS's, the USFWS also designated critical habitat for each DPS. Critical habitat was finalized in 2011 for the Sonoma County DPS, in 2005 for the central California DPS, and in 2004 for the Santa Barbara County DPS.

USFWS has also finalized recovery plans for all three DPS's. The central California DPS recovery plan was finalized in 2017 while both the Sonoma and Santa Barbara County DPS plans were published in 2016. (USFWS)

HABITAT NEEDS: Habitat preferences vary slightly between each DPS with all three relying on small mammal burrows in upland habitat. (USFWS)

- The Santa Barbara DPS inhabits low-elevation seasonal ponds and associated grassland, oak savannah, and coastal scrub.
- The central California DPS occupies annual grasslands and open woodlands.
- The Sonoma DPS is found in vernal pools, seasonal pools, and their associated grassland or oak savannah habitats.
- Eggs are laid in shallow semi-permanent pools and ponds or in permanent ponds. Adults spend little time at breeding sites. (NatureServe)

Description: This is a large, stocky salamander with males growing up to 8 inches in length and females just under 7 inches. The back and sides have a black background with white or pale yellow spots or bars. This coloration of the salamander's belly varies and may be uniformly light colored or a variegated pattern of white or pale yellow and black. The snout is rounded and the small, black eyes protrude from the head. (USFWS)

Photos: John Cleckler of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Natural Resource Management (NRM)

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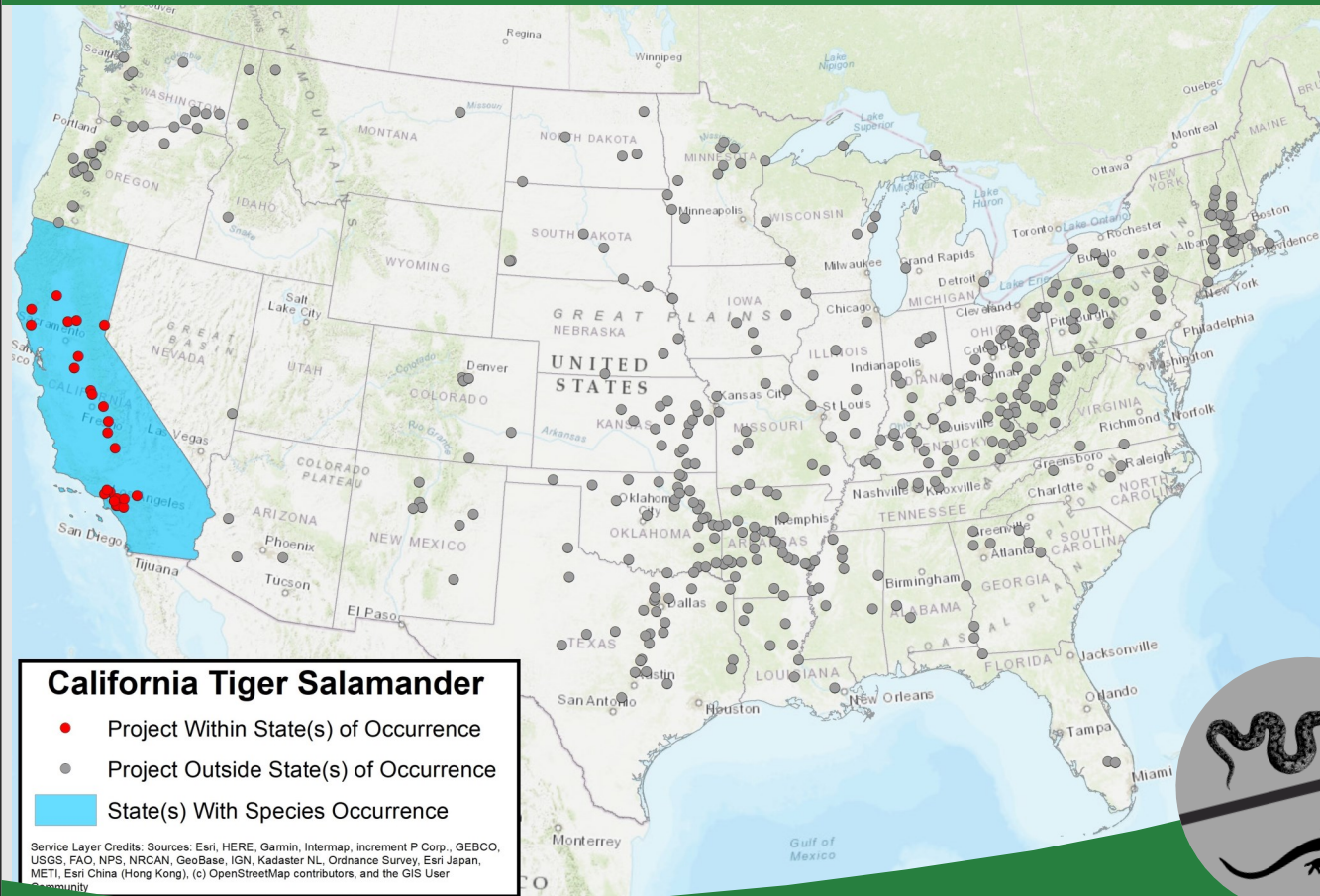
USACE ROLE: USACE has expended over \$835,000 on efforts related to the California tiger salamander. According to the Threatened and Endangered Species Costs Estimates database, these funds have been expended by multiple business lines including Environmental Stewardship, Regulatory, and Planning and Program Management. Of that sum, approximately \$6,000 was spent on research relating to the California tiger salamander.

Map, right: Species' range as depicted in USFWS's Environmental Conservation Online System.



WHAT IS USACE NRM DOING: USACE operates several projects within Sacramento District which have known occurrences or the potential for the California tiger salamander to occur. These projects include Buchanan Dam H.V. Eastman Lake, Hidden Dam Hensley Lake, and New Melones Lake.

As such, the USACE works diligently to ensure all current and proposed projects do not negatively impact the California tiger salamander or its habitat. Projects are closely coordinated with the appropriate natural resource agencies, including USFWS, to provide more complete guidance on potential impacts.



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 Source: Map provided by Ashleigh Boss, ONISE Fellowship, Institute for Water Resources

