

# USACE Natural Resource Management

## Reptiles & Amphibians



### Georgetown Salamander

### FAST FACTS

**REASONS FOR LISTING STATUS:** The Georgetown salamander has a restricted range and is only known to occur in five springs along tributaries of the San Gabriel River and one cave in the city of Georgetown, Texas. This limited distribution makes the salamander very vulnerable to the impacts of degradation of water quality and reduction of available water quantity stemming from urbanization. Consequently, the Georgetown salamander was proposed for listing under the Endangered Species Act in 2001. In 2014, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service listed the Georgetown salamander as Threatened. (USFWS)

**MANAGEMENT AND PROTECTION:** In 2020, the USFWS proposed approximately 1,519 acres of critical habitat jointly for the Georgetown salamander and Salado salamander in Bell and Williamson Counties, Texas. This habitat has not yet been finalized.

At the time of listing, the USFWS proposed a 4(d) rule for the species. The original proposed 4(d) rule stated that incidental take resulting from activities consistent with conservation measures in the Edwards Aquifer Recharge Zone Water Quality Ordinance would not be prohibited under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). This rule was revised in 2015 to provide clarity on what activities would be covered by the rule. (USFWS)

The USFWS notes that protecting multiple populations across the landscape is essential for the long-term survival of the species. This means at least three populations must be protected within each occupied watershed.

**HABITAT NEEDS:** This salamander is entirely aquatic. It occupies five springs found along tributaries of the San Gabriel River as well as one cave in Georgetown, Texas. (USFWS)

- Maintaining water quality and quantity are critical for the conservation of this species

**Description:** This is an entirely aquatic salamander that grows to be roughly 2 inches in length. (USFWS) This salamander has a gray dorsal background color with a light-brown streak which extends from a diamond mark on the head along the midline to the base of the tail. Dots are scattered throughout the body, including the limbs and digits, leading to the formation of a black, finely-reticulated, netlike pattern (Chippindale et al., 2000).

Photos: Scott Wahlberg, iNaturalist Observation, Center for Biological Diversity

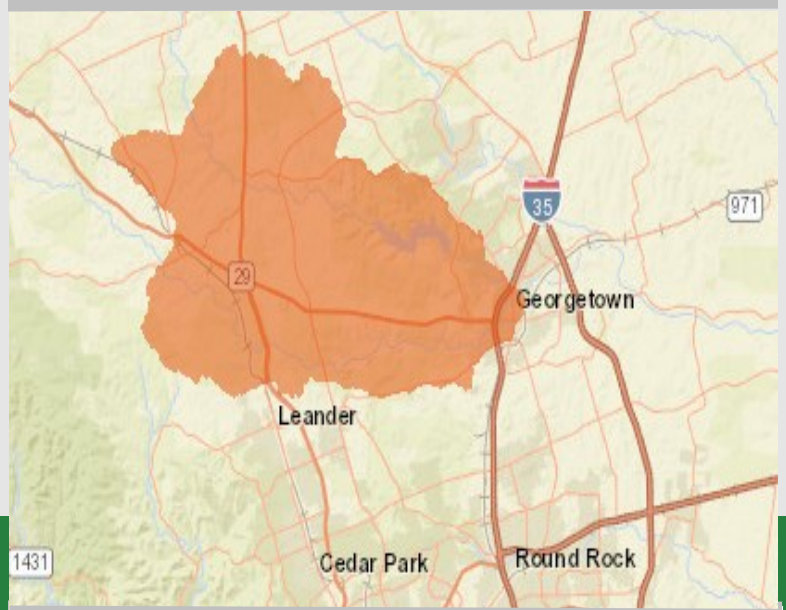
*Natural Resource Management (NRM)*

*This fact sheet has been prepared as an unofficial publication of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). This online publication is produced to provide its readers information about best management practices related to special status species. Editorial views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army. Mention of specific vendors does not constitute endorsement by the Department of the Army or any element thereof.*



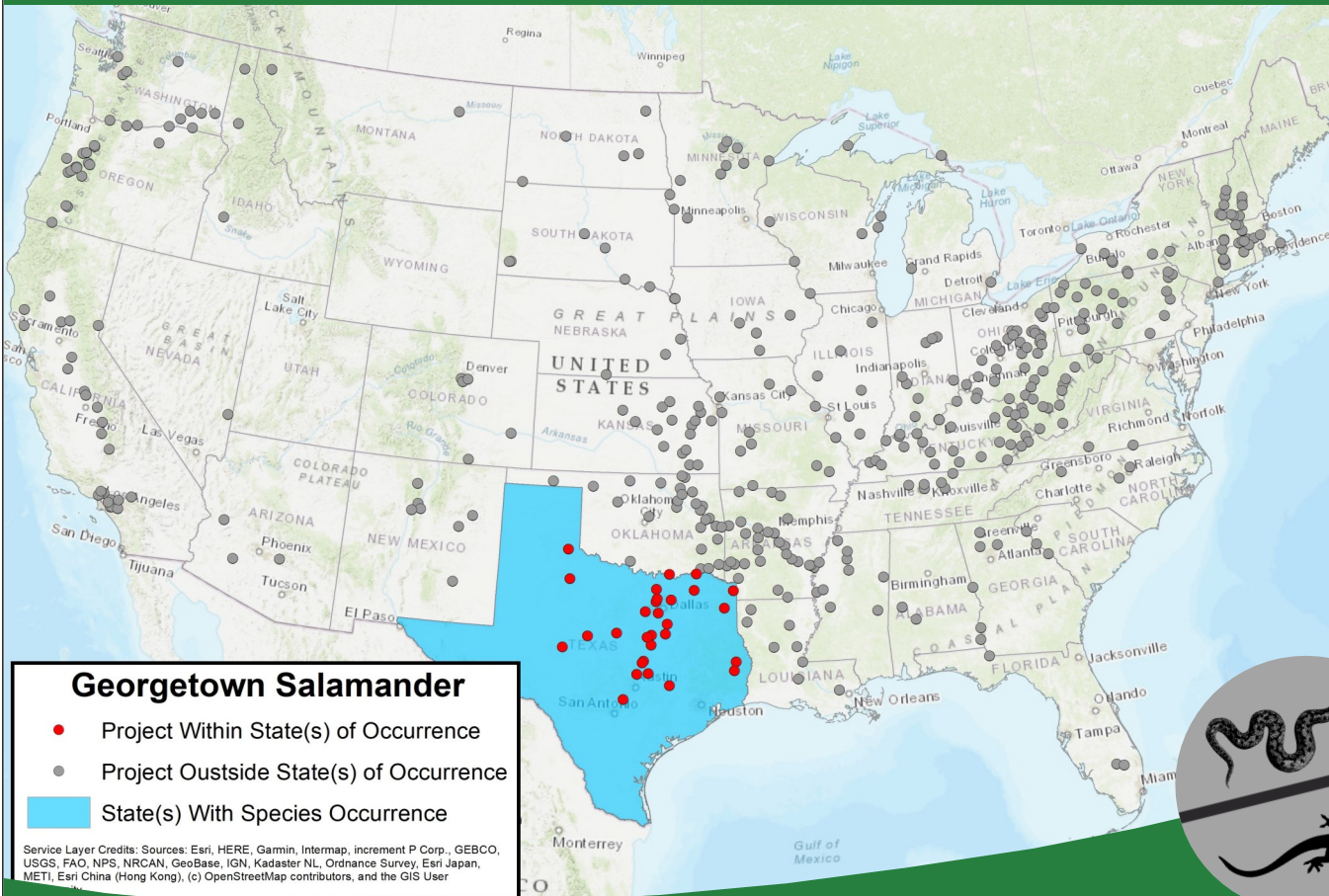
**USACE ROLE:** The USACE operates a single project with the potential for the Georgetown salamander to occur. Lake Georgetown of Fort Worth District is situated on the North Fork of the San Gabriel River in Williamson County, Texas. The project functions as a water supply for the city of Round Rock and Georgetown. Decreased water quantity in occupied habitat due to urbanization is a major threat to this species. The provision of water from other sources, such as the project, could mitigate this threat.

Map: Species' range in Texas as determined by USFWS.  
Graphic: NatureServe lists the species as Critically Imperiled



### WHAT IS USACE NRM DOING:

Though the Georgetown salamander has the potential to occur at a USACE project, it has not yet been found on project lands. Moreover, despite its conservation status and the need to develop a long-term management plan for this salamander, there is little information available regarding the biology and ecology of the species. Consequently, USACE is not currently actively managing for the species. However, as with all imperiled species, USACE works closely with the appropriate resource agencies to ensure that no current or proposed work will have negative impacts on the species or its habitat.



### Georgetown Salamander

- Project Within State(s) of Occurrence
- Project Outside State(s) of Occurrence
- State(s) With Species Occurrence

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

