

# USACE Natural Resource Management Reptiles & Amphibians



## Streamside Salamander

**REASONS FOR LISTING STATUS:** The streamside salamander is considered an at-risk species by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Currently, there are no federal protections; however, the Service was petitioned in 2010 to list the species with a substantial 90 day finding issued in 2011. A proposed determination date for the federal listing of the species is set for 2023.

The streamside salamander is a state listed endangered species in Tennessee. The decline of this species is attributed to habitat loss and destruction due to the conversion of forested streams to pasture and residential areas.

### MANAGEMENT AND PROTECTION:

Identical to the small-mouth salamander, two species cannot be accurately discerned visually. Instead, determining species can only be done via the careful examination of range and habitat.

Habitat conservation is vital to the successful recovery of the species. The streamside salamander breeds only in forested ravines which have been negatively impacted by urbanization and logging. Additional threats include the pollution of streams, stream channelization and scouring.

**HABITAT NEEDS:** The streamside salamander is found in streams, sometimes intermittent, with limestone bedrock and rock cover.

- The species is not associated with pools and ditches where the small-mouthed salamander is found.
- The streamside salamander migrates to breeding sites in the fall and has a prolonged breeding season occurring from December to April.
- Sites are often associated with isopods, pond snails, planarians, and burrowing crayfish which serve as food sources. (Tennessee Natural Heritage Program)

**Description:** The streamside salamander is usually brownish-gray to grayish black. Numerous small, light gray speckles merge on the sides of this salamander to form a lichen-like pattern.

Typically, this species grows to a length of 4 to 5.5 inches with a stocky body and small head.

Photo: Tennessee  
Natural Heritage  
Program, Tennessee  
Wildlife Resources  
Agency

*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.*



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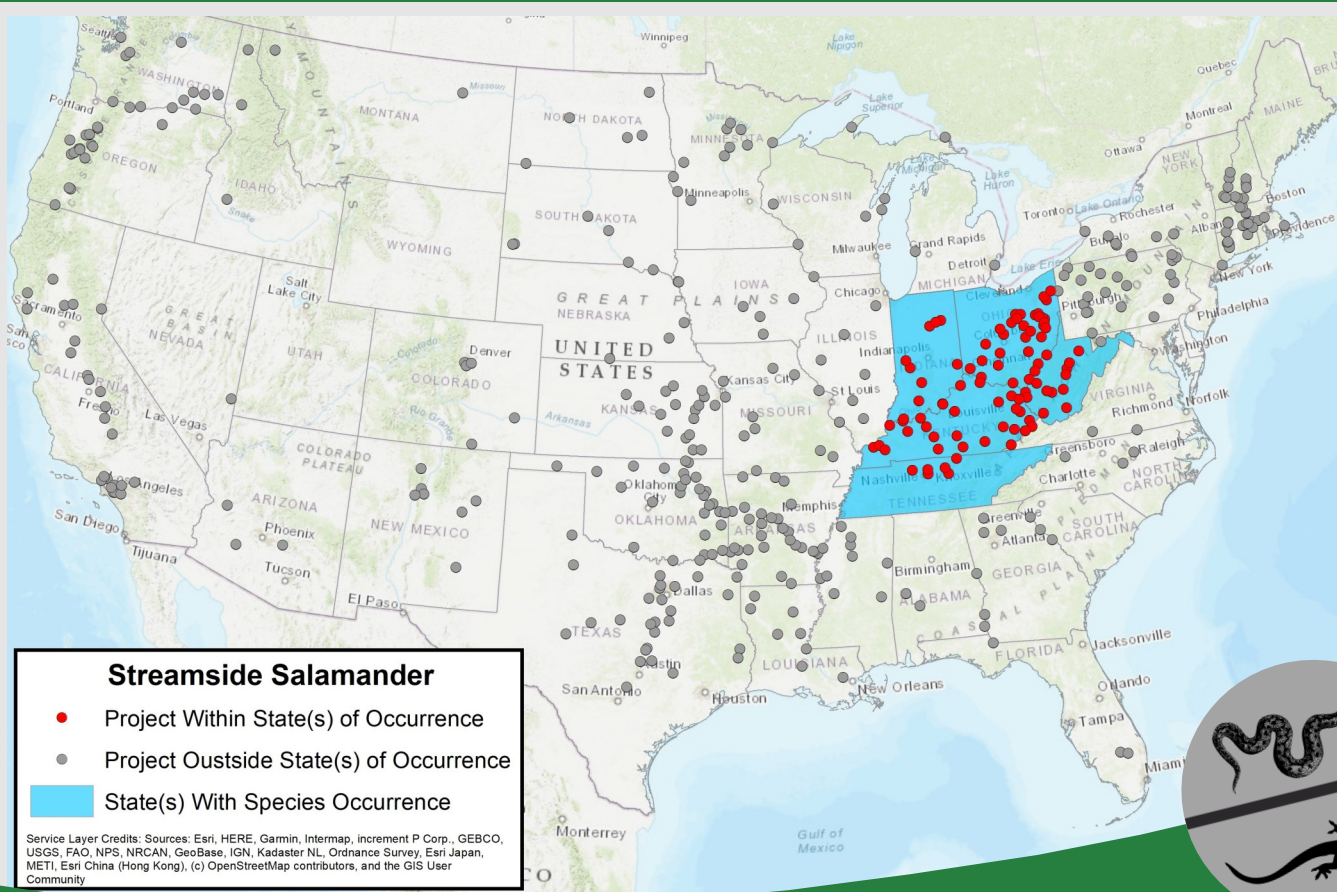
**USACE ROLE:** Increased habitat protection is an important conservation strategy for the streamside salamander. USACE operates several projects within the species' range, specifically in northern Tennessee and southern Kentucky. These projects play an important role in the provision of suitable habitat.

**WHAT IS USACE NRM DOING:** USACE projects within the range of this species include those such as Center Hill Lake and Old Hickory Lake in Tennessee along with Nolan River and Barren River Lake, among others, in Kentucky. Staff work diligently to analyze project plans within the salamander's range to ensure that proposed projects will not have negative impacts on the streamside salamander.

At J. Percy Priest Lake, Nashville District, staff work with researchers from the Tennessee Natural Heritage Program, to conserve the species. Adjacent to project lands is the Couchville Cedar Glades Natural Area. This unique, environmentally sensitive area is a known breeding site for the streamside salamander population.



*Photo: Students participating in an environmental stewardship training class examine the habitat of the streamside salamander with zoologist David Withers of the Tennessee Natural Heritage Program.*



**Reptiles & Amphibians**  
 Source: Map provided by Ashleigh Boss, ONSE Fellowship, Institute for Water Resources

