

California Wildlife Habitat Relationships System
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
California Interagency Wildlife Task Group

DUNN'S SALAMANDER

Plethodon dunni

Family: PLETHODONTIDAE
A009

Order: CAUDATA

Class: AMPHIBIA

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DISTRIBUTION, ABUNDANCE, AND SEASONALITY

Dunn's Salamander is uncommon in California. It is found only from the Smith River watershed in Del Norte Co., the southern limit of its distribution. Young and mature stands of redwood forest are used in California, but a wider range of habitats is used in Oregon. This species is usually associated with rocks (Storm and Brodie 1970).

SPECIFIC HABITAT REQUIREMENTS

Feeding: In Oregon, food items include springtails, mites, flies and beetles (Altig and Brodie 1971, Dumas 1956).

Cover: Rocky outcrops and talus slopes are used for cover.

Reproduction: Unknown, but probably within crevices of rocky outcrops and talus slopes.

Water: Requires moist habitat.

Pattern: Requires cool, moist habitat, primarily talus and rocky outcrops within moderate to dense forests, often with associated streams and seepage areas.

SPECIES LIFE HISTORY

Activity Patterns: Probably nocturnal. More difficult to observe during the summer dry season, indicating a possible aestivation period.

Seasonal Movements/Migration: No data.

Home Range: No data.

Territory: No data.

Reproduction: One egg cluster collected in the field contained 9 eggs (Dumas 1956). This species probably deposits eggs in late spring, which hatch in late summer or fall. Females probably lay eggs alternate years (Peacock & Nussbaum 1973).

Niche: Dunn's salamander is restricted to cool, moist, shaded areas. Predation by Steller's jay was observed by Dumas (1956). He also suggested the following probable predators: Dipper, shrew-mole, shrews, alligator lizards, garter snakes, and carabid beetles.

REFERENCES

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