

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

CLOUDED SALAMANDER

Aneides ferreus

Family: PLETHODONTIDAE
A021

Order: CAUDATA

Class: AMPHIBIA

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DISTRIBUTION, ABUNDANCE, AND SEASONALITY

The clouded salamander is found in the humid coastal forests of northern California in Del Norte and western Siskiyou counties. Habitats used include Douglas fir, redwood, montane hardwood-conifer, red fir, and valley-foothill riparian. This species is not commonly observed in dry periods, and probably estivates during these times.

SPECIFIC HABITAT REQUIREMENTS

Feeding: Clouded salamanders consume a variety of small arthropods, including ants, beetles, spiders and mites (Storm and Allen 1947).

Cover: They are usually found under logs and beneath the bark of snags or logs. They also frequent talus piles and moist rock crevices (Stebbins 1951, Behler and King 1979).

Reproduction: Eggs are commonly deposited under bark or within rotting logs and stumps.

Water: Primarily found in moist habitats.

Pattern: Most abundant in dense old-growth forests, but also occur at the borders of clearings (Stebbins 1985).

SPECIES LIFE HISTORY

Activity Patterns: Probably nocturnal. Dry seasons are spent aestivating deep within logs and moist rock crevices.

Seasonal Movements/Migration: Not migratory.

Home Range: No data.

Territory: No data.

Reproduction: Eggs are deposited in late spring and early summer, hatching in late summer or fall. Clutch size is 8 to 17. Females guard nests.

Niche: May be preyed upon by garter snakes and ringneck snakes.

REFERENCES

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