What Can We Do? | California Tiger Salamander

Saving Species Together ~ *Everyone can help protect species!*

If You are a Private Land Manager with Operations in California Tiger Salamander Habitat

- Help facilitate a large-scale habitat protection. Encourage your county planning to prepare a Natural Community Conservation Planning (NCCP) program. An NCCP identifies and provides for the regional protection of plants, animals, and their habitats, while allowing compatible and appropriate economic activity.

- Avoid activities that will impede CTS movement in the terrestrial environment, especially during the period after the first half-inch of rain in autumn until mid-March, and from mid- May until the breeding ponds are dry, which could be as late as October.

- Consult with US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) or CDFW prior to digging, filling, or converting an area that may be CTS habitat. This includes grassland or lightly wooded oak woodland, with small mammal burrows, within 1.3 miles of suitable breeding habitat (ponds). Appropriate permits should be obtained prior to conducting ground-disturbing activities in CTS habitat.

- Check with an environmental consultant to learn whether your project may affect CTS or their habitat.

- Spoil piles should not be placed on top of burrows that may contain CTS. CTS cannot dig their own burrows or dig their way out of a plugged burrow.

Ways to Help

- If you have a pond, do not add fish or any non-native species. If you have a seasonal pond, don't convert it to a permanent pond. Keeping it seasonal will help many native amphibians and insects.

- When working in a pond that may be breeding habitat, contact CDFW and USFWS and obtain the appropriate authorization or permit. CTS have even been found in the cracks of dry ponds. Check with your local Resource Conservation District.

- Eradicating ground squirrels and other small burrowing mammals is bad for CTS. These animals build and maintain burrow systems that CTS use. If squirrels are eradicated from an area, the burrows will fall apart after a few years.