



# United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**Siskiyou Mountains, Scott Bar Salamanders**  
**Do Not Warrant Endangered Species Act Protection**  
*Service Concludes Species Not Threatened by Habitat Loss*

YREKA, Calif. –The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service today announced that two species of salamander, the Siskiyou Mountains and Scott Bar salamanders, do not warrant Federal protection under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). It was determined that neither salamander is threatened by habitat loss or other substantial threats in any portion of their ranges. The Service made the determination in response to a January 19, 2007, court order.

Both species are endemic to the Klamath-Siskiyou Mountains of southern Oregon and northern California. Recent genetic and morphological research has determined that the Siskiyou Mountains and Scott Bar salamanders are distinct species. In addition, the Siskiyou Mountains salamander is divided into two genetic groups, the Applegate salamander in Oregon and a small portion of California, and the Grider salamander, located primarily in California. Roughly 440 Applegate salamander, 76 Grider salamander, and 115 Scott Bar salamander localities are currently known.

The Siskiyou Mountains salamander and Scott Bar salamander are completely terrestrial, medium-sized, slender-bodied salamanders with short limbs and a dorsal stripe. Both salamanders are found within, and are associated exclusively with, rock or talus outcrops in a variety of forest habitats where moisture and humidity are high enough to allow dermal respiration.

The salamanders appear to be associated with, or more abundant in, dense mature forest conditions, but they are regularly found in a wide range of habitat conditions. Recent studies indicate that salamander populations are reduced by intensive habitat disturbances such as clear-cutting, but then recover as vegetation recovers. Less intensive disturbances such as forest thinning do not appear to negatively affect populations.

The salamanders are secretive and spend the majority of the year underground in rock crevices, making population studies difficult. The number of known salamander locations has increased dramatically during the last decade, and large areas of suitable habitat have yet to be surveyed.

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A copy of the finding about the Siskiyou Mountains and Scott Bar salamanders is available on the Internet at [www.fws.gov/yreka](http://www.fws.gov/yreka) or by calling the Yreka Field Office in California at (530) 842-5763. Questions about this finding can be sent to Phil Detrich, Field Supervisor, Yreka Fish and Wildlife Office, 1829 South Oregon Street, Yreka, CA, 96097. Questions may also be emailed to: [Siskiyou\\_salamander@fws.gov](mailto:Siskiyou_salamander@fws.gov).

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife requests that any new information concerning the status of, or threats to, these species be submitted to the Yreka Fish and Wildlife Office whenever it becomes available.

New information will help the Service monitor these species and encourage their conservation. If an emergency situation develops for these or any other species, we will act to provide immediate protection.