Reticulated flatwoods salamander

*Ambystoma bishopi*

**Taxonomic Classification**

- **Kingdom:** Animalia
- **Phylum:** Chordata
- **Class:** Amphibia
- **Order:** Caudata
- **Family:** Ambystomatidae
- **Genus/Species:** *Ambystoma bishopi*
- **Common Name:** Reticulated flatwoods salamander

**Listing Status**

- **Federal Status:** Endangered
- **FL Status:** Federally-designated Endangered
- **FNAI Ranks:** Not ranked
- **IUCN Status:** VU (Vulnerable)

**Physical Description**

The reticulated flatwoods salamander is a long and slender salamander that can reach a body length of 5.2 inches (13 centimeters) (Ashton 1992). It has a silvery-gray or black body with white spots that are more distinct than on the frosted flatwoods salamander, *Ambystoma cingulatum* (Goin 1950 as cited in Pauly et al. 2007). Reticulated flatwoods salamanders also have a small head and a black belly.

**Life History**

The diet of the reticulated flatwoods salamanders primarily consists of earthworms and spiders (Goin 1950, P. Moler pers. comm. 2011).

Flatwoods salamanders migrate to ponds or small puddles to breed from October to January during wet weather. Females lay clumps of eggs among vegetation such as twigs and pine needles. The maximum clutch size for the flatwoods salamander is 35 eggs, which hatch 48
hours after being laid. Larvae metamorphose in 90 days (Ashton 1992, J. Himes pers. comm. 2011).

**Habitat & Distribution**

The reticulated flatwoods salamander inhabits slash and longleaf pine flatwoods that have a wiregrass floor and scattered wetlands (Florida Natural Areas Inventory 2001). This species occurs in Florida counties west of the Apalachicola River (Map Data from: Krysko et al. 2011).

**Threats**

The main threat to the reticulated flatwoods salamander is loss of habitat. Pine flatwoods-wiregrass habitats have suffered rapid loss in the southeast due to agriculture and silviculture (Ashton 1992). Continued loss of habitat could cause extensive population loss for the reticulated flatwoods salamander. An extensive drop of the water table could prevent the necessary inundation of water that eggs require (Palis and Hammerson 2008).

**Conservation & Management**

The reticulated flatwoods salamander is protected as an Endangered species by the Federal Endangered Species Act and as a Federally-designated Endangered species by Florida’s Endangered and Threatened Species Rule.

**Other Informative Links**

Florida Natural Areas Inventory  
FWC Listing Actions and Petitions  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - Change in Status and Critical Habitat Designation  
U.S Fish and Wildlife Service – Species Profile

**References**

