

Description

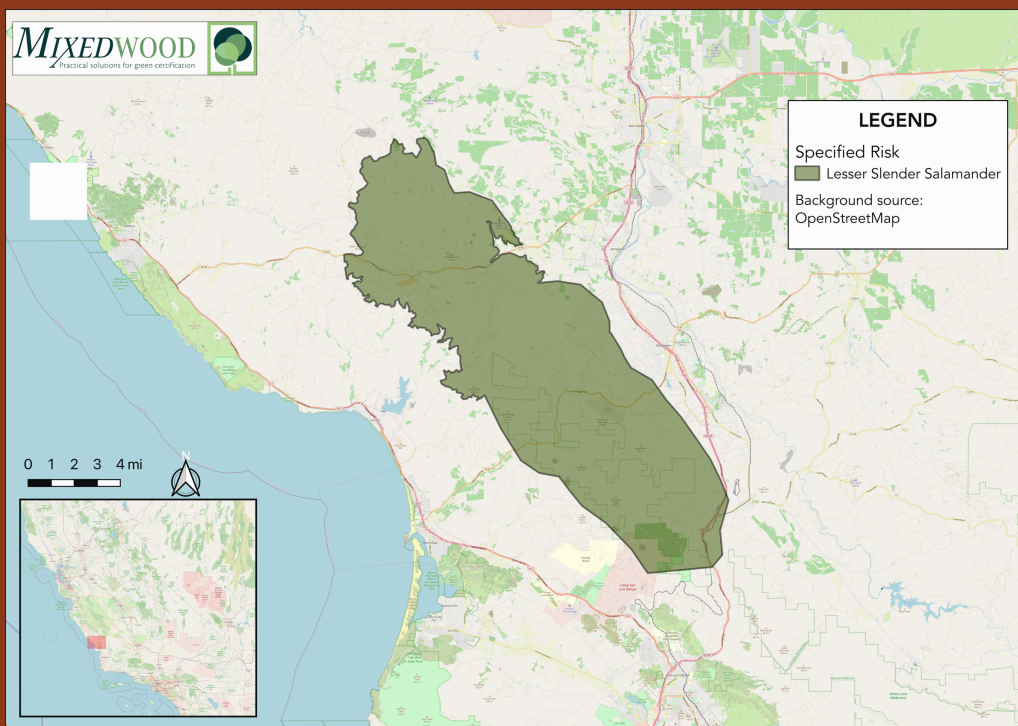
The Lesser Slender Salamander's distribution is restricted to the southern Santa Lucia Range of north-central San Luis Obispo County, CA, generally above 400m (1300ft). The species is considered to have been common historically but are now more difficult to find. No specific cause for this decline has been identified. The species was only fairly recently identified as being separate from other similar salamander species (via DNA analysis) in 2001.

This species appears to be associated with forests of mixed oak, tanbark oak, sycamore and laurel. They are typically found in areas either with higher elevation or that are more mesic than other sites near their location. Frequently, these are in mesic canyons, where the individuals are found on shaded slopes in deep leaf litter. They are always found in areas that also include black-bellied slender salamanders, but only occur in a small portion of this other species' range.¹

LESSER SLENDER SALAMANDER

Batrachoseps minor

FSC Controlled Wood
Specified Risk Fact Sheet



FSC US Region:
Pacific Coast

Type: species
range

NRA Category:
HCV 3.1

Scope: very
narrow

¹Forest Stewardship Council. (2018). FSC US Controlled Wood Regional Meeting Report Pacific Coast & Rocky Mountain Regions: Portland, OR. Retrieved from <https://us.fsc.org/download.controlled-wood-regional-meeting-report-pacific-coast-rocky-mountain-regions.a-704.pdf>





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High Conservation Value (HCV)

The Lesser Slender Salamander is considered an HCV because it is a rare species population with very limited distribution. The species was identified through an analysis of the NatureServe dataset, considering criteria including level of imperilment (both global and state scales), taxa (e.g., vertebrate species), forest habitat dependency, and recency of confirmed occurrences.¹

Recommended Mitigation

- **Avoidance:** verified evidence that wood procurement is not active in the identified area.
- **Education & Outreach:** information sharing with landowners, loggers, wood suppliers.
- **Procurement Policy:** supporting and promoting conservation.

Information Sources

- **California Herps website**. Includes links & references.
- **Partners in Amphibian & Reptile Conservation**: Habitat Management Guides. Link to guidance.
- **Amphibian Survival Alliance**: Link to resources.
- **Amphibiaweb website**. Includes links to references.
- **International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) “Red List”**. Includes references & status.

Identification Characteristics

- Adults are 1 - 2 3/10 inches long (2.5 - 5.8 cm) from snout to vent.
- 17-18 costal grooves, a short body, fairly long legs, and a broad head with a distinct neck.
- Four toes on the front and hind feet.
- Color is blackish brown, sometimes with a tan dorsal stripe with pinkish or apricot highlights, most noticeable on the tail.

