

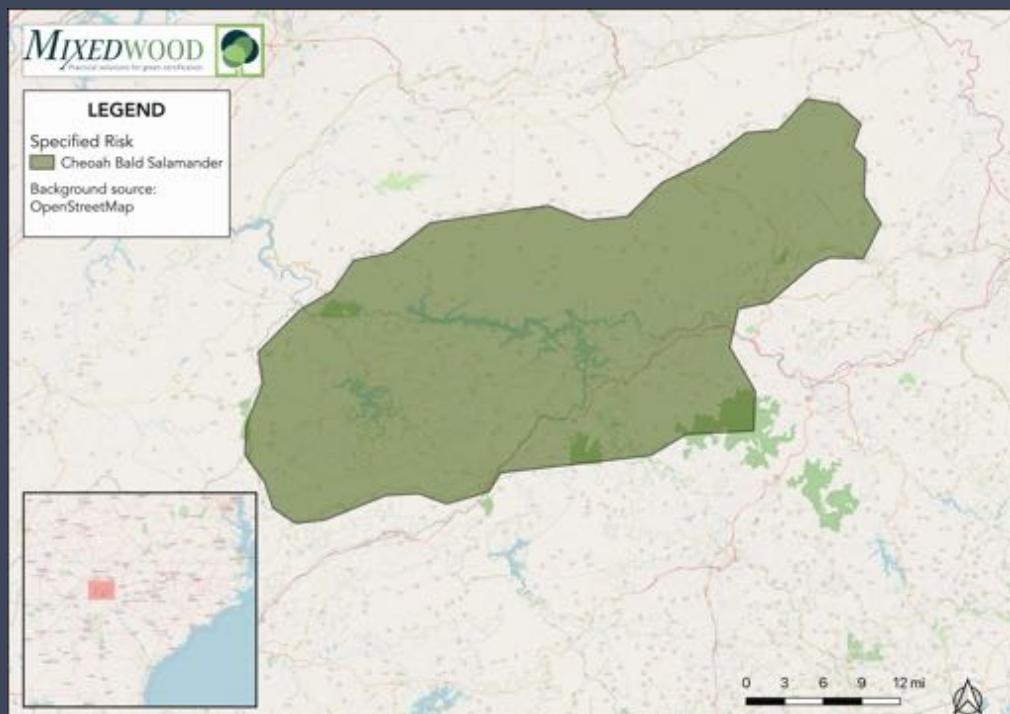
Description

The Cheoah Bald Salamander's range is not yet well defined but is believed to be limited a portion of the Appalachian Mountains at the very western extent of North Carolina within the elevational range of 975-1,524 meters, associated with the Cheoah Bald. The salamander's primary habitat is the mesic forests and the species may be common in areas with suitable habitat. It appears that much of the species' range may occur within the Nantahala National Forests and it is identified as a Federal Species of Concern. For more information, contact the North Carolina Natural Heritage Program or the Nantahala National Forest.¹

CHEOAH BALD SALAMANDER

Plethodon cheoah

FSC Controlled Wood
Specified Risk Fact Sheet



FSC US Region:
Appalachian

Type: species
range

NRA Category:
HCV 3.1

Scope: narrow

¹Forest Stewardship Council. (2018). FSC US Controlled Wood Regional Meeting Report Appalachian Region: Asheville, NC. Retrieved from <https://us.fsc.org/download.controlled-wood-regional-meeting-report-appalachian-region.a-702.pdf>





High Conservation Value (HCV)

The Cheoah Bald 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

- **Amphibian Survival Alliance.** Includes links to resources.
- **Amphibiaweb website.** Includes links to references.
- **iNaturalist website.** Includes a detailed range map.
- **Amphibians & Reptiles of North Carolina (NC PARC).** Description.
- **International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) “Red List”.** Includes references & status.
- **Amphibian & Reptile Conservancy website.** Program description & support opportunity.
- **North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission:** 2015 Wildlife Action Plan.

Identification Characteristics

- Dark grey bodies with lighter grey cheek patches and are easily identified by their red legs. Some individuals may have brassy flecking on the back.
- Hatchlings do not go through an aquatic larval stage. Instead, when young salamanders emerge from their eggs they look like miniature adults.

