

Description

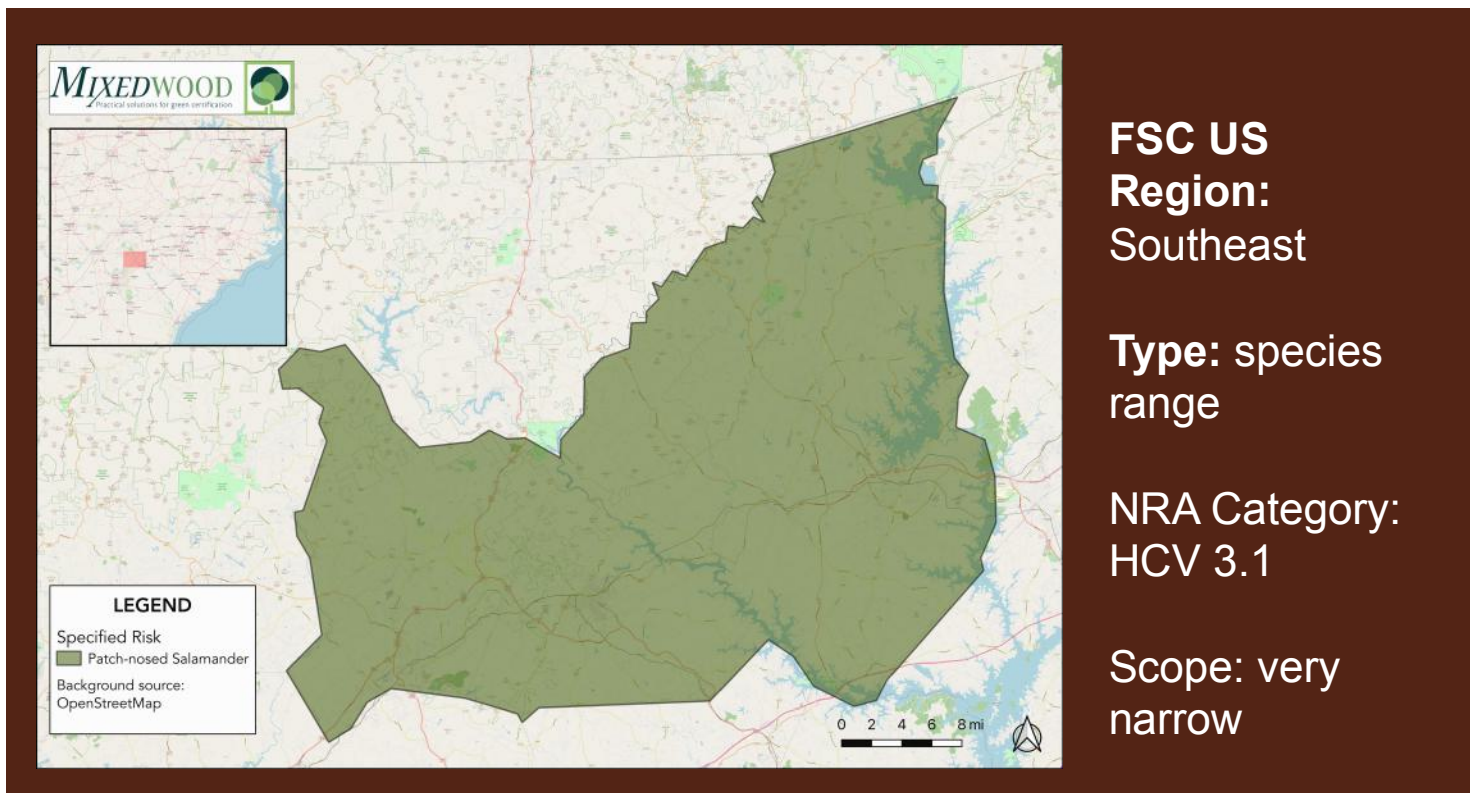
This species is the smallest known salamander in North America – typically around 5 cm in length, half of which is the tail. The known range of the Patch-Nosed salamander includes a limited number of small, first order stream located at the foot of the Blue Ridge escarpment in Stephens and Habersham counties (near Lake Tugaloo) of Georgia, within the Chattahoochee National Forest. There is one additional population known in Oconee County, South Carolina.

Identified individuals of this species have all been found in leaf litter or under rocks in the above water streambeds or banks of first-order streams. It is not yet known whether adjacent hardwood forests also provide habitat. This species is not listed at either the federal or state level.¹

PATCH-NOSED SALAMANDER

Urspelerpes brucei

FSC Controlled Wood
Specified Risk Fact Sheet



¹Forest Stewardship Council. (2018). FSC US Controlled Wood Regional Meeting Report Southeast & Mississippi Alluvial Valley Regions: Atlanta, GA. Retrieved from <https://us.fsc.org/download.controlled-wood-regional-meeting-report-southeast-mississippi-alluvial-valley-regions.a-703.pdf>





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High Conservation Value (HCV)

The Patch-Nosed 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

- **U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.** Patch-nosed salamander information website.
- **ResearchGate.** Life History and Habitat of the Rare Patch-nosed Salamander document.
- **International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) website.** A comprehensive resource for global conservation status.

Identification Characteristics

- Adults reaching a standard length of only 25-26 millimeters.
- Slender jaws with few teeth; males have spiny premaxillary teeth that are longer than those of females.
- Male have 15 costal grooves and females have 16.
- Coloration and pattern are sexually dimorphic, unlike any other known North American plethodontid.
- Adult males have a bright yellow dorsum with two darker pigmented dorsolateral stripes.
- Adult females have a more muted brownish yellow coloration due to a suffusion of numerous dark melanophores, and the dorsolateral stripes are absent.
- Adults have a distinctive saffron yellow patch on the snout; in larvae this patch is white. A thin dorsal stripe stretches down the center of the tail; this stripe is yellow in adults and white in larvae.

