



SACRAMENTO MOUNTAIN SALAMANDER

The Sacramento Mountain salamander is only found in the Sacramento Mountains and other neighboring mountain ranges. This salamander lacks lungs; instead, it breathes through the skin, which must remain moist. Consequently, these animals spend much of their time below the surface, coming out when conditions are humid. And it turns out, humans aren't the only ones who like rain – especially in an arid state like New Mexico – the salamander can only be found aboveground when there has been sufficient rainfall and the soil is nice and moist. Major diet items include small invertebrates as spiders, ants, and beetles. Adults have black-and-yellowish coloration on the back and a light brown belly, fading to a cream color on the throat. NMDGF biologists have listed the Sacramento Mountain Salamander as a species of greatest conservation need, and surveys are conducted each year to collect genetic diversity samples and assess habitat quality.