

Blue-spotted Salamander *Ambystoma laterale*

Habitat Preference: The blue-spotted salamander is a forest dweller. Moist soils with small ponds are important habitat elements. They are very secretive and take shelter under fallen, rotten logs, in leaf litter, moss, and other debris provided the soil is damp.



Threats:

- Habitat fragmentation
 - Fragmentation of the routes from hibernating areas to breeding ponds limits breeding success.
- Loss of habitat
 - Loss of woodland pools.
 - Breeding pools have gradually silted in and no longer hold water during the spring breeding period.
 - Loss of woodland habitat
 - Conversion to cultivated ground.
 - Urban development.
 - Building of roads.
 - Logging

Habitat Improvement Guidelines:

- Excavate woodland pools. Many of these pools have been silted in and need to be excavated in order to hold water in spring. Shallow pools that cannot support fish life are very important. Fish prey on salamander eggs reducing reproductive success.
- Limit disturbance of areas around woodland pools. Retain adequate habitat that is undivided from breeding pools to limit fatalities on the route from hibernating grounds to breeding pools.
- Preserve remaining woodlands.
- Limit logging in close proximity to woodland pools.