

FIGHTING FOR SURVIVAL

JEMEZ MOUNTAINS SALAMANDER

SUFFERING SALAMANDERS

The Jemez Mountains salamander (*Plethodon neomexicanus*) is the most imperiled of only three salamanders that occur in New Mexico. This unique salamander is at risk of extinction due to logging, road building, climate change, and fire suppression. Habitat drying and increased forest fire intensities resulting from climate change pose acute threats to this amphibian. Without federal protection, we may lose the Jemez Mountains salamander and its contributions to the web of life forever.

PROTECTING NATIONAL FORESTS

The Jemez Mountains salamander makes its home within the volcanic fields of the Jemez Mountains. About 90 percent of the salamander's populations exist within the boundaries of the Santa Fe National Forest. Listing the Jemez Mountains salamander under the Endangered Species Act would not only ensure its long-term survival, but also protect old growth forest habitat on the Santa Fe National Forest.

MOUNTAIN STRONGHOLD

The Jemez Mountains contain large tracts of undisturbed wilderness replete with rocky peaks, ponderosa pine forests, and tumbling mountain streams. Since these mountains were formed by volcanic activity, they also contain unique features such as hot springs, fumaroles, and the majestic Valles Caldera, a ring of hills formed from the remnants of several extinct volcanoes.



CHRIS NEWSOM

KNOW YOUR SALAMANDER

- **Lungs? Who Needs 'Em?**
Because Jemez Mountains salamanders are lungless, their skin is very thin and must remain moist in order for them to absorb oxygen.
- **Nightly Noshing.**
These nocturnal salamanders spend most of their lives underground in the moist soils of the Santa Fe National Forest, emerging at night to hunt insects.
- **Tiny Treasures.**
Jemez Mountains salamanders average a miniscule 82 millimeters in length, half of which is their tail.



WILDEARTH GUARDIANS

516 Alto Street
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501
505-988-9126
www.wildearthguardians.org