

THREATS TO SALAMANDERS



Blue-spotted Salamander by Caley Johnson



Habitat Loss & Fragmentation

Salamanders often need specific microhabitats to survive & reproduce. Many human activities cause the direct loss of habitat or fragment the landscape, causing small, isolated populations of salamanders.



Yellow-eyed Ensatina by Chad M. Lane

Disease

Diseases such as salamander chytridiomycosis, caused by the fungus *Batrachochytrium salamandrivorans* (Bsal), are spreading & causing massive population declines & extinction of species.



Tiger Salamander by Jason Fantuzzi

Climate Change

Climate change impacts microhabitat features & can restrict salamanders' geographic range.

Red-backed Salamander by Caley Johnson



Pollution

Pollution can affect a salamander's sensitive skin, causing an array of problems for these environmental indicators (species that reflect the health of the environment).

Deforestation

Deforestation causes the loss of critical habitat & increases ground temperature, disrupts vernal pools, & increases run-off.



Northern Red Salamander by Jason Fantuzzi

Invasive Species

Invasive plants can alter local ecology, potentially drying up vernal pools, outcompeting native, beneficial vegetation, & reducing invertebrate abundance (a major food source for salamanders).



Large-blotched Ensatina by Chad M. Lane