

Advocacy Comments on the Designation of Critical Habitat for the Sonoma County Distinct Population Segment of California Tiger Salamander

On February 14, 2011, the Office of Advocacy (Advocacy) filed public comments with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) on the Designation of Critical Habitat for the Sonoma County Distinct Population Segment of California Tiger Salamander. A copy of Advocacy's comments may be viewed at www.sba.gov/advocacy.

- On August 4, 2004, FWS listed the Central California population of the California Tiger Salamander as a threatened distinct population segment. On August 19, 2009, FWS published a proposed rule designating approximately 74,000 acres of critical habitat. On January 18, 2011, FWS published a revised proposed rule designating approximately 50,855 acres as critical habitat and announcing the availability of the draft economic analysis and initial regulatory flexibility analysis (IRFA).
- Advocacy has concerns that the IRFA does not adequately capture the economic impacts of the proposed rule on small businesses. Advocacy is concerned that the IRFA does not include analysis of the smallest construction companies and does not consider industries such as vineyards.
- Additionally, the IRFA does not discuss significant alternatives to the proposed rule, as required by the RFA. Advocacy requests that FWS publish a supplemental IRFA addressing providing this information.

For more information, visit Advocacy's website at <http://www.sba.gov/advocacy> or contact Kia Dennis at 202-205-6936.