



FERGUSON SLIDE

Restoration Project



Merced River's Wild and Scenic River Outstandingly Remarkable Values: Wildlife



Young *H. brunus*

Various *H. brunus* habitats

Limestone salamanders (*Hydromantes brunus*) live in crevices of cliffs and ledges and in limestone under the canopy of foothill-oak woodland, especially where the rocks are overgrown with moss. They are active during the fall, winter, and spring rains, especially during cold spells. The Limestone salamander only occurs along some segments of the Merced River drainage, all of which are within an approximately 5-mile radius of the project area. The limestone salamander was designated as a threatened species by the State of California in 1971. It is also designated as fully protected, which means that an impact to this species cannot be authorized through the usual permitting process.

Alternatives C, T, and S would completely avoid impacts to the Limestone salamander through the implementation of the following measures:

- Environmentally Sensitive Area fencing would be placed along the southern slope of the canyon to prevent any construction equipment from entering that area.
- No construction activities would occur on the south side of the river between December and March unless a full time biological monitor is present.
- The proposed bridge approaches would be adjusted to avoid cutting into the southern slope of the canyon.