

Striped Newt (*Notophthalmus perstriatus*)

Until recently the striped newt was considered a candidate for federal listing under the Endangered Species Act. In December 2018, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service determined that federal listing is not warranted at this time (US FWS 2018). The species is state listed as Threatened by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. This amphibian is known to have declined and disappeared from portions of its historic range on Trail Ridge, near the Okefenokee Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, due to commercial forestry operations (Dodd and LaClaire 1993, Farmer et al. 2017). Since 1990, the striped newt has been found at a single site in Charlton County, Georgia, a pond on the Okefenokee NWR (located ca. 18 km N of Twin Pines); the newt was last found at this site in 1994 (Farmer et al. 2017).

My dipnet and minnow trap surveys of 12 isolated wetlands on-site did not document the striped newt. Naturally-functioning longleaf pine–wiregrass sandhills, the preferred habitat for transformed examples of this newt, are lacking on-site. Due to the profound habitat changes and perturbations from commercial forestry practices (see Frosted Flatwoods Salamander Account above) it is unlikely that the species persists on the Twin Pines site, if in fact it was ever present.

Gopher Frog (*Rana capito*)

The gopher frog, state-listed as Rare by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, was documented on the Twin Pines site, including observations for the Adirondack, Keystone, and Loncala tracts (Figure 13). A total of six gopher frogs were observed, including three adults seen in gopher tortoise burrows during indigo snake surveys or gopher tortoise surveys and three adults observed in tortoise burrows while scoping burrows with the burrow camera. Two frogs were captured and voucher photographs were taken of these specimens. Dates and specific location information for these records are provided in Table 5.

Dipnet and minnow trap surveys of 12 isolated wetlands that I conducted on-site during February-March 2019 did not document egg masses or tadpoles of the gopher frog. On 23 April 2019, I visited two wetlands on the Loncala tract (30.57433°N, 82.11841° W and 30.57040°N, 82.12284° W) that were not among the 12 survey sites but that are located fairly close (within a quarter mile or less) of