

### 4.3 Eastern Indigo Snake

Due to known occurrences in the region and gopher tortoise burrows present onsite, wintering habitat may be present for the eastern indigo snake. Although not surveyed for due to the time of year of the field inspection, no specimens, associated fresh snake tracks, or snake shed skins of the eastern indigo snake were observed during the field inspections.

### 4.4 Frosted Flatwoods Salamander

The frosted flatwoods salamander is endemic to mesic longleaf pine-wiregrass flatwoods and savannahs where it breeds in isolated, ephemeral depressional wetlands (Palis 1997; Jensen and Stevenson 2008). Optimal breeding habitats are kept open-canopied by occasional fire events and the basins of these wetlands are typically carpeted with graminaceous vegetation (Bishop and Haas 2005, Palis 1997; US FWS 1999). Adult salamanders spend over 90% of their lives in fire-maintained, mesic longleaf/slash pine-wiregrass flatwoods surrounding breeding sites (Palis and Means 2005). Late winter-early spring surveys for larvae are the most effective and efficient way to document the presence of this salamander (Bishop et al. 2006, Bevelhimer et al. 2008).

TTL reviewed the on-site wetland habitats for their suitability of potential breeding pond habitats for the frosted flatwoods salamander (i.e., isolated depressional wetlands forested with pond cypress (*Taxodium ascendens*), black gum (*Nyssa biflora*), slash pine (*Pinus elliotii*), and myrtle-leaved holly (*Ilex myrtifolia*). The on-site forested wetland was evaluated as to its potential suitability for the frosted flatwoods salamander based on a ranking system developed by Palis (2002). For each wetland; the hydrology, fire history, presence/absence of graminaceous vegetation within the pond basin (including *Carex*, *Rhynchospora*, *Eriocaulon*, *Xyris*, *Panicum* spp.) as well as the condition of pine uplands (e.g., fire history, integrity of ground cover, soil type and disturbance) surrounding the wetland was considered. TTL did not identify any suitable habitat for breeding sites within the review area. The onsite forested wetland appeared riparian in nature and was not an isolated, depressional feature.

### 4.5 Red-cockaded Woodpecker

Red-cockaded woodpecker are residents of the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge. Suitable habitat consists of well-drained, sandy areas dominated by old-growth, longleaf pine communities with sparse mid-story vegetation and dense diverse herbaceous groundcover. Pine trees must be of sufficient size and spatial distribution to be inhabited by red-cockaded woodpeckers. Due to the site's current use as a commercial forestry operation (north of Highway 94) and chip mill (south of