

FARALLON SALAMANDER TOXICITY STUDY CALL NOTES
SEPTEMBER 8, 2015

Attendees: Gerry McChesney (USFWS), John Isanhart (DOI), Gary Witmer (USDA)

1) What to do about NFWF funds (~\$35,000)

There is much concern of putting these funds towards the salamander toxicity study because it is not enough to complete the study and the funds will likely need to be spent by Dec 31, 2015.

However, it should be enough money to fund captures and shipment of wild salamanders to be used in the study. But still could be tight getting the money spent in time, especially if additional funds for the trials have not been found.

Followup needed: Gerry will contact NFWF and explain our situation and ask if fund expiration could be extended beyond Dec 31. If all looks good, will look to getting funds OFTed to FWS for salamander capture contracts.

2) What species to use for the study

Will need about 100 salamanders for study. Sources say it is unlikely to capture more than about 30-50 *Aneides*. Suggestions have been to use much more common *Batrachoseps attenuatus* or *Ensatina eschscholtzii*. All three are in the same family, but *Ensatina* is more closely related to *Aneides*. But we need to find out which is more similar to *Aneides* in natural history, which may be more important for study.

May use surrogate species for main study and subsample of 40-50 *Aneides* for confirmation of results, if enough can be obtained.

Followup needed: All will look at info on the three species/genera to assess which would be a better surrogate. Gerry will check with herp specialists on their opinions of this, which species will be easier to get needed sample size (most important), and estimated budget for captures.

3) Funding needed and timeline

Gary estimates \$40-50,000 for initial exposure trial, including overhead. Will become more costly if additional trials (e.g., sublethal effects) or toxicity scans are necessary.

Animal Care and Use proposal will take about 5 weeks for approval.

Followup: John will request funds from his program for trial.