

Tucson Herpetological Society

Wednesday October 18 2017 – 7:15 PM
Tucson City Council Ward 3, 1510 E Grant Road

Saga of the Endangered Sonora Tiger Salamander



Jim Rorabaugh received a B.S. in Zoology and M.S. in Animal Ecology from the University of California at Davis and went on to work as a wildlife biologist for various U.S. federal agencies, including 20 years in endangered species conservation for the Fish and Wildlife Service in Arizona and California. Now retired, he has

authored numerous papers, book chapters, and other publications on amphibians and reptiles of the Southwestern U.S. and Sonora.

The Sonora Tiger Salamander (*Ambystoma mavortium stebbinsi*) is the only amphibian or reptile in Arizona listed under the Endangered Species Act as endangered. Its distribution is limited to the grasslands and savannas of the San Rafael Valley, Arizona, adjacent valleys in Sonora, and lower canyons of adjoining mountains. Historically it probably bred in cienegas, but those habitats have been destroyed or are now inhabited by non-native predators with which the salamander cannot coexist. Today, the Sonora Tiger Salamander breeds primarily in cattle tanks. Key threats include habitat loss, non-native predators, a virulent iridovirus, and genetic swamping from introduced Barred Tiger Salamanders. The talk will cover the ecology, current management, and conservation status of the Sonora Tiger Salamander in Arizona and Sonora.

**PLEASE JOIN US AT OUR
Pre-meeting gathering
5:30 PM at Rubio's
2906 N Campbell**

