

## News Advisory

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### For Immediate Use

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## Endangered salamander: first-ever reintroduction to private land

*RMS and public, private partners release  
larval reticulated flatwoods salamanders on Florida panhandle*

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (February 12, 2025) [Resource Management Service, LLC \(RMS\)](#), one of the world's largest and most experienced providers of timberland investment services, is celebrating the first-ever reintroduction of the federally endangered reticulated flatwoods salamander on private land.

In late January, RMS, in partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), Gulf Coastal Plain Ecosystem Partnership (GCPEP), The Longleaf Alliance, Eglin Air Force Base, and Naval Air Station Whiting Field released 50 larval salamanders on private land in Northwest Florida.

The 3,719-acre Santa Rosa County property, managed by RMS on behalf of [Arbejdsmarkedets Tillægspension \(ATP\)](#) is [permanently protected by a conservation easement](#). Under the terms of the agreement, RMS has committed to manage the property as a working longleaf pine forest and a functioning longleaf ecosystem, which benefits the region economically and environmentally.

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“As a collection of foresters, RMS’ heart and soul rests on good stewardship of the acres we are entrusted to manage. Part of that is executing and identifying good conservation outcomes for special sites, certain species, or areas of interest,” said Alex Hinson, President and CEO of RMS. “We’re particularly excited when we can work with partners to align management objectives with conservation outcomes.”

The Service led the development of an agreement through the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program that allows for the reintroduction of this endangered species while removing the Endangered Species Act (ESA) regulatory risk to the landowner. “Conservation is truly a team effort, and private landowners are critical to making sure our nation’s landscapes and wildlife can be cherished for generations,” said Catherine Phillips, Service Assistant Regional Director for Ecological Services. “RMS’ leadership and initiative are transforming our approach to restoring this endangered salamander to its natural home. Their willingness to partner in this way is ushering in a new era of trust and cooperation between the Service and private entities. RMS has made a commitment to conservation, and our commitment to them is to streamline our process ensuring RMS can continue their work on these lands while protecting the salamander. We hope this relationship proves to be a model for companies like theirs and private landowners so we can continue conserving this and other species.”

The larval salamanders RMS and partners released this month originated from native populations in the nearby Escribano Point Wildlife Management Area. “Private lands and trusted partnerships are essential to conservation, and we are grateful for private companies and landowners leading the way on such an exciting and innovative conservation effort,” said Jennifer Goff, Deputy Director of FWC’s Division of Habitat and Species Conservation. “Identifying and pursuing

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common goals between conservation agencies and private landowners is essential to ensuring a healthy future for Florida's wildlife."

According to wildlife biologists, habitat loss and degradation are the most significant contributors to the decline in reticulated flatwoods salamander populations. As members of the GCPEP, RMS works closely with The Longleaf Alliance to restore wetlands within this longleaf pine forest, including efforts such as removing hardwoods to provide openings in the forest and timing of prescribed burns during the growing season when the salamanders have retreated underground. "The reticulated flatwoods salamander requires very specific habitat conditions to support its complex life cycle," said Vernon Compton, GCPEP Director. "The willingness of RMS and their investor to make property available for the newly established population and their commitment to managing the forest to support the health of the ecosystem, serve as a model for other landowners."

To ensure the success of the reticulated flatwoods salamander population, the partners will provide ongoing habitat management, will monitor the released salamanders, and through the continuation of this private-public partnership, will release additional salamanders in this wetland in early 2026.

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### **About Resource Management Service, LLC**

*RMS is one of the world's largest and most experienced providers of timberland investment and forestry management services. We are committed to being a leader in environmentally and socially responsible (ESG) investing and in practicing sustainable forest management on our clients' forestlands. As a company founded, owned, and managed by professional foresters, RMS has long been guided by a strong stewardship ethic. Exercising good stewardship through responsible management of all forest resources meets the needs of our clients, customers, employees, society, and future generations. Our focus is generating optimal, near-term cash*

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*yield and long-term asset appreciation by employing state-of-the-art systems and the most sustainable advanced forest management practices in the world. As an independently owned and operated company, RMS has established a legacy by optimizing the biological, financial, and societal values of every asset we manage. Based in Birmingham, Alabama, RMS is a Registered Investment Adviser with \$5.2 billion of timberland assets under management in the United States and Brazil. For more information, please visit us at: [www.resourcegmt.com](http://www.resourcegmt.com).*