

# ScienceWorks Spotlight

The Mazama Newt, also known as the Crater Lake Newt, is a subspecies of the Rough Skinned Newt. These amphibians are suspected to be the descendants of Rough Skinned Newts that made their way into the caldera one wet season and could not climb their way out. With nowhere to go they thrived in their new predator free home for centuries.

Because they were isolated from predators for so long they now produce 4000 times LESS toxins than their relatives. However this adaption left the Mazama Newt unprepared, when in 1915 crayfish were introduced to the lake. Now the Mazama Newt population is being overrun by crayfish and risk extinction.

## MAZAMA NEWT

