



Protection Possible For Garter Snake

10 January 2006

From the Albuquerque Journal

The Mexican garter snake might get protection under the Endangered Species Act after a status review being done by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service this year.

But it could be too late for populations in southwestern New Mexico.

"They've declined sharply in New Mexico," said Noah Greenwald, conservation biologist for the Center for Biological Diversity, which petitioned the government to protect of the snake two years ago.

The yellow-striped garter snake was once found in riparian areas of Arizona, southwest New Mexico and Mexico, but biologists believe it has disappeared from New Mexico. It is threatened by habitat degradation, including livestock grazing, water diversion and non-native species, Greenwald said.