

## Two garter snake species in AZ, NM now listed as threatened

**Two snake species that are found in New Mexico and Arizona have now been formally listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act.**

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DDN Correspondent - 08 Jul, 2014

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The two snake species getting listed as threatened are northern Mexican garter snake and narrow-headed garter snake as both are experiencing declining habitat along the streams and rivers.

The action taken by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to list the snakes as threatened comes as part of an agreement that was the result of a lawsuit filed by the Center for Biological Diversity.

Colette Adkins Giese, an attorney with the Center for Biological Diversity stated that another step in the process is to make a retrieval plan for restoring the population of the snakes.

According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service the population of northern Mexican garter snakes and narrow-headed garter snakes have dropped by as much as three-quarters. The population estimate implies the snakes are on the verge of extinction.

According to Adkins Giese, the reasons causing greatest effect on the habitat of the reptiles is livestock grazing, extending of the urban areas and water withdrawal. She said the introduction of non-native species such as bass, sunfish and crayfish, which have spread all over the area, also impact their habitat.

Adkins Giese said that protecting the habitat of the animals will also help humans.