

US Fish and Wildlife Service Finalize Protections for Narrow-Headed Garter Snake and Northern Mexican Garter Snake



by Pierrot Durand - July 8th, 2014

Loss of habitat loss has led narrow-headed garter snake to be included in the threatened species list. For more than a decade now, environmentalists have been asking authorities concerned to add the rare snake found in New Mexico in the list.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service also confirmed that number of the snake is dwindling. The new classification will allow agency officials to take protective measures to preserve the reptile's habitat.

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service has also provided the endangered species protection to the northern Mexican garter. Collette Adkins Giese, a lawyer for The Center for Biological Diversity, thinks that the provision of endangered species

protection would affect not only these two snakes but others as well.

"Protecting these snakes and the shrinking waters of the southwest will benefit not just these snakes, but every other animal that depends on these river systems, as well as humans", affirmed Giese. For past so many years, populations of these two snakes are on decline.

There are an array of factors contributing to the decline including livestock grazing, water withdrawal and agricultural and urban sprawl. Being on endangered species list, the FWS will set aside a critical habitat for these snakes.

Adding these snakes on the list will raise awareness about these species and their habitat. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service said they will work with the Bureau of Land Management to evaluate the losses to their habitat and will work if any problem is found.

Now, just five northern Mexican garter snake populations are in the US and all are in Arizona. On the other hand, narrow-headed garter snakes are found in a few places in Arizona and New Mexico