



Snake found only in Louisiana, Texas added to threatened listing

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BATON ROUGE, La. —

The federal government has added a burrowing snake found only in Louisiana and Texas to its threatened species listing.

The Louisiana pine snake is a 5-foot-long constrictor found in a few longleaf pine forests in four Louisiana parishes and five Texas counties.

It eats pocket gophers and lives in their burrows.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature has listed it as endangered since 2007. Officials with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced its listing as threatened Thursday, opening a 30-day comment period.

Elsie Bennett, of an endangered species nonprofit called the Center for Biological Diversity, calls the new listing a great first step. The group sued to make the Interior Department decide the snake's status and that of hundreds of other species on the agency's list of candidates for protection.

