



Arizona snake to get protected habitat

Joseph Trevino
July 25, 2019

A unique and local snake native to Arizona has won a protected habitat.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service agreed to designate a protected habitat in Arizona for the narrow headed Mexican Garter Snake, according to the Center for Biological Diversity.

Jenny Loda, a biologist and attorney working for the Center, said via a press release that in 2013 the Fish and Wildlife Service had proposed to protect more than 420,000 acres of critical habitat for snakes in Arizona and New Mexico. But according to them it had failed to do so.

“It’s fantastic these unique, beautiful garter snakes will finally get the habitat protection they need,” said Jenny Loda, a center biologist and attorney working to protect vulnerable amphibians and reptiles. “For these snakes to survive and recover, we have to protect the river banks where they live. Safeguarding these rivers will also benefit people and other native wildlife that need healthy waterways.”

According to the Center, the northern Mexican garter snake historically existed in every county in Arizona and parts of New Mexico and Mexico. The narrow-headed garter snake is considered one of the most aquatic of its kind.