

# Response Statement - Desert Nightsnake

*December 8, 2011*

**Common Name:** Desert Nightsnake

**Scientific Name:** *Hypsiglena chlorophaea*

**Status assessment by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC):** Endangered

**How the Minister of the Environment intends to respond to the assessment:** The above assessment confirms the classification of the Desert Nightsnake which is already on Schedule 1, the *List of Wildlife Species at Risk*. This species will thus remain on the List as Endangered and activities will continue to be undertaken in a manner consistent with the purposes, and according to the timelines identified in, the *Species at Risk Act*.

**Reason(s) for status designation provided by COSEWIC:** This nocturnal and secretive snake occurs in arid and semi-arid regions of western North America, reaching its northern distributional limits within seasonally hot interior valleys of south-central British Columbia. Throughout its small Canadian distribution, expanding urban and agricultural developments and their associated infrastructures threaten habitats of the species. Scattered distribution pattern, small population size, and no possibility of rescue contribute to the vulnerability of the species and place it at imminent risk of extirpation.

**Occurrence:** British Columbia

**Competent Minister(s):**

Minister of Environment

**Conservation activities underway:** A National Recovery Team was put in place for this species. A recovery strategy for the Desert Nightsnake (*Hypsiglena chlorophaea*) is under development.