

Response Statement - Eastern Ribbonsnake, Great Lakes population

December 18, 2013

Common Name: Eastern Ribbonsnake, Great Lakes population

Scientific Name: *Thamnophis sauritus*

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

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

Reason(s) for status designation provided by COSEWIC: The Great Lakes population is relatively widespread and appears to be locally abundant in a few sites. However, quantitative data are lacking on population size and trends, and most information is anecdotal and from protected areas. Wetland and shoreline habitat loss and road development continue at an alarming rate within their range and present a significant threat to the species. Unless those losses are reversed the species is at risk of becoming Threatened. Road mortality and habitat loss are widespread and much of the species distribution occurs in pockets of habitat surrounded by agricultural land, roads and shoreline development.

Occurrence: Ontario, Quebec

Competent Minister(s):

Minister of Environment

Minister responsible for the Parks Canada Agency

Other applicable legislation: When the species is found within national parks of Canada or other lands administered by the Parks Canada Agency, it is protected or managed under the *Canada National Parks Act* or through measures or management tools available to the Parks Canada Agency under other legislation. , Where it occurs in a National Wildlife Area this species is subject to the *Wildlife Area Regulations* under the *Canada Wildlife Act*, which prohibits activities that could be harmful to species and to their habitat, unless a permit is issued indicating the permitted activity.

Conservation activities underway: A management plan for the Eastern Ribbonsnake (Great Lakes population) is in development.