

# Response Statement - Great Basin Gophersnake

*December 18, 2013*

**Common Name:** Great Basin Gophersnake

**Scientific Name:** *Pituophis catenifer deserticola*

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

**How the Minister of the Environment intends to respond to the assessment:** The above assessment confirms the classification of the Great Basin Gophersnake which is already on Schedule 1, the *List of Wildlife Species at Risk*. This species will thus remain on the List as Threatened 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:** This large, non-venomous snake is restricted in Canada to the dry southern interior of British Columbia, where it occurs within landscapes fragmented by roads, orchards, vineyards, and houses. Because of its low reproductive rate and late age at maturity, seasonal migrations, and habit of lingering on warm roads, this snake is especially vulnerable to road mortality. This mortality, together with habitat loss and degradation and intentional and inadvertent killing, are expected to continue and result in population declines over the next 24 years (3 generations).

**Occurrence:** British Columbia

**Competent Minister(s):**  
Minister of Environment

**Conservation activities underway:** The recovery strategy for Great Basin Gophersnake is in development.