

Frequently Asked Questions Regarding the Tucson Shoveled-Nosed Snake

Q – What action is the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) taking?

A – The Service is announcing its decision not to list the Tucson shovel-nosed snake under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

Q – Why is the Service taking this action?

A - The Service determined that, based primarily on new information available subsequent to the original 12-month finding, the previously recognized threats to the Tucson shovel-nosed snake do not rise to a level of significance such that the subspecies is in danger of extinction now or likely to become so in the foreseeable future.

Q – Isn't this a change from an earlier determination?

A – Yes. At the time of the 2010 12-month finding, the Service understood that the Tucson shovel-nosed snake only occurred in the area between Tucson and Phoenix, Arizona. However, additional genetic work was conducted and this new genetic data indicates that the subspecies occupies a range approximately five million acres larger than the range the Service identified in the 12-month finding; this represents a 274 percent increase in the estimated range of the subspecies.

Q – What is a shovel-nosed snake?

A - The Tucson shovel-nosed snake is a small, non-venomous snake (9.84–16.73 inches in total length) in the family Colubridae, with a shovel-shaped snout, an inset lower jaw, and coloring that mimics coral snakes. The snake is one of four subspecies of the western shovel-nosed snake (*Chionactis occipitalis*).

Q – Where is the shovel-nosed snake found?

A - The subspecies is found throughout central and western Arizona in Pinal, Maricopa, Yavapai, Yuma, Pima, and La Paz Counties.

Q – Can I find out more about this decision?

A – Yes. This finding is available on the Internet at <http://www.regulations.gov> at Docket Number FWS–R2–ES–2014–0035. Please submit any new information, materials, comments, or questions concerning this finding to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Arizona Ecological Services Field Office, 2321 W. Royal Palm Road, Suite 103, Phoenix, AZ 85021.