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HAVE YOUR SAY!

# RED-SIDED GARTER SNAKE

*Thamnophis sirtalis parietalis*

Should red-sided garter snake be listed as a species of **SPECIAL CONCERN** in the NWT?

**Special Concern** means red-sided garter snakes could become Threatened or Endangered because of a combination of biological characteristics and identified threats.

## RED-SIDED GARTER SNAKE

Red-sided garter snakes are the most northern snakes in North America. In the NWT, they are mainly known to occur near Fort Smith, where the karst landscape provides the caves and crevices snakes use for hibernation.

The snakes hibernate in specific, small areas—which means a single threatening event could negatively impact many of the NWT’s snakes at once. In recent years, severe wildfire and drought have impacted the habitat of red-sided garter snakes. Climate change makes their future more uncertain. Roadkill mortality also occurs in the NWT.

In April 2024, the NWT Species at Risk Committee (SARC) assessed red-sided garter snakes as a species of **Special Concern** in the NWT.

The **NWT Species at Risk Committee** (SARC) is an independent group of experts who hold Indigenous and community knowledge, and/or scientific knowledge about species and habitat in the NWT. They assess species based on the best available information and objective biological criteria.

Read the assessment report and learn more about red-sided garter snakes:

[www.nwt-species-at-risk.ca](http://www.nwt-species-at-risk.ca)





Photo: Parks Canada

## RED-SIDED GARTER SNAKE

### A SPECIES OF SPECIAL CONCERN?

If red-sided garter snake is legally listed as a species of **Special Concern** in the NWT, a management plan will be required for the species within two years. The management plan would recommend objectives and approaches to manage red-sided garter snakes in the NWT.

### What will the listing mean to me?

When a species is added to the NWT List of Species at Risk, there are **no automatic changes** to regulations already in place. The listing triggers actions from management partners to ensure threats are managed in a way to prevent red-sided garter snakes from becoming further at risk. The listing will not change rules around snake viewing or activities allowed in snake habitat.

### We want to hear from you!

- Should red-sided garter snake be listed as a species of **Special Concern** on the NWT List of Species at Risk? Why or why not?
- Would listing this species have positive or negative impacts for you and your community? What would they be?
- Is there new or missing information that was not considered in the status report? If so, can you provide it to us or tell us where to find it?



## HAVE YOUR SAY!

[www.nwt-speciesatrisk.ca](http://www.nwt-speciesatrisk.ca)

- Fill out a survey or scan the QR code → [www.surveymonkey.com/r/P5C2T23](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/P5C2T23)
- Send an email to [SARA@gov.nt.ca](mailto:SARA@gov.nt.ca)
- Call us toll free: 1-855-783-4301

