Smooth Greensnake (*Opheodrys vernalis*)
Conservation Status Rank Summary

January 29, 2025

For details on assessment and ranking methodology, see: *Conservation Status Assessment Definitions, Process, Rank Factors, and Calculation of State Ranks for Montana Species*

Rarity and Trends

Rank Factor	Date Assessed	Value	Score	Data Source	Comments
Rarity					
Range Extent	2024-10-23	Y: 28153.6 km²	3.930	MTNHP Range Maps	None
Area of Occupancy	2024-10-23	894 | 4km² cells	4.130	MTNHP Modeling	None
Number of Occurrences	2025-01-29	54	2.750	MTNHP Databases	None
Population Size			-		**Factor not used in ranking.**
# of Occurrences in Good Condition	2024-10-23		2.200	MTNHP Data	The vast majority of the occurances of this species are from patches of native habitat within argricultural lands and this fragmentation and degredation likley has an impact on the species
% of Area Occupied in Good Condition			-		**Factor not used in ranking.**
Environmental Specificity	2018-05-03	Very narrow	-	MTNHP Species Rank Data Table	**Factor not used in ranking.** Found only in grassland ecosystems with high densities of wetlands within the far north eastern corner of the state | Methodology: NS (2003) | Original Score: A
Rarity is calculated by averaging weighted factor scores: **((3.93 × 1) + (4.13 × 2) + (2.75 × 1) + (2.20 × 2)) / 6 = 3.22**					
Trends					
Short-term Trend	2024-10-23		-	MTNHP Data	**Factor not used in ranking.** No data on trends are available
Long-term Trend	2024-10-23		-0.310	MTNHP Data	Over 70% of the species known range is now agricultural lands. this decline in habitat likley represents a severe decline in abundance
Trends score is calculated by summing weighted short and long-term trend scores: **((-0.31 × 1)) = -0.31**					

Threats

Rank Factor	Date Assessed	Value	Score	Data Source	Comments
Threats					
Overall Threat Impact		High	1.830		None
Intrinsic Vulnerability	2018-05-03	Moderately vulnerable	-	MTNHP Species Rank Data Table	**Factor not used in ranking.** Moderately Vulnerable. Species exhibits moderate age of maturity, frequency of reproduction, and/or fecundity such that populations generally tend to recover from decreases in abundance within 5-20 years or 2-5 generations. Species has good dispersal ca | Methodology: NS (2003) | Original Score: B
Threat score is calculated from Overall Threat Impact when available or Intrinsic Vulnerability if not: **(1.83) = 1.83**					

Individual Threats Data

Threat Category	Date Assessed	Impact Score	Scope	Severity	Immediacy	Comments
Agriculture & Aquaculture	2024-10-23	High	Pervasive	Serious	High	Approximately 90% of suitable habitat occurs on private lands, and in an area at high risk for conversion of native prairies to agriculture
Threat Tally: 0 - Very High, 1 - High, 0 - Medium, 0 - Low Overall Threat Impact* = High						

*See Conservation Status Assessment Definitions, Process, Rank Factors, and Calculation of State Ranks for Montana Species for calculation of Overall Threat Impact based on the number and impact of individual threats.

Conservation Status Rank Calculation

Raw score

Rarity: (3.22 × 70%) + Threats: (1.83 × 30%) + Trends: (-0.31) = 2.50

Calculated Rank: S2

Accepted Rank	S2
Date Approved	Date Unknown
Approval Authority	Legacy Assessment: MTNHP Staff
Rank Justification	The Smooth Green Snake is rarely observed and is only found within or near wetland habitat in far northeastern Montana. Conversion of grassland habitat to cropland threatens the species persistence within the state. Like many other reptiles we do not have data to assess changes in population, occupancy, or distribution over time.

Supplementary Information

Montana Natural Heritage Program. 2021. Conservation Status Assessment Definitions, Process, Rank Factors, and Calculation of State Ranks for Montana Species. 18 p.
https://mtnhp.mt.gov/docs/Montana_State_Rank_Criteria_20211201.pdf

Montana Field Guide Species Account:
https://fieldguide.mt.gov/speciesDetail.aspx?elcode=ARADB47010

Predicted Suitable Habitat Model:
https://mtnhp.mt.gov/resources/models/?elcode=ARADB47010

Information Needs

Information needs are assessed by considering the availability of factors used to assess species status as well as the quality of these assessments. Current information availability and quality to inform Conservation Status Rank for this species are highlighted.

Rank Factor	Assessment Category	Value	Criteria
General Status	Status Quality	Adequate	Calculated rank has low uncertainty and is represented by a single rank (e.g. S3); accepted rank may be adjusted to a range rank (e.g. S2S3)
		Poor	Rank assessed as SU or calculated rank has notable uncertainty and corresponds to a range rank with 2 or more values (e.g. S2?, S1S3, or S4S5)
Rarity	Range Quality	Adequate	Range polygon adequately represents area of probable occupancy and does not include substantial unoccupied areas; range may be adequately defined and still include areas of unsuitable habitat (e.g. mountain ranges for plains species)
		Marginal	Range polygon defined, but may include or exclude notable areas where the species may or may not occur on the landscape
		Poor	Range polygon not defined
	Habitat Quality	Adequate	Species-habitat relationship is well-defined (e.g. relevant literature or robust habitat model available)
		Marginal	Understanding of species-habitat relationship is adequate among some but not all habitats (e.g. literature covers similar habitats outside of Montana or habitat model performance is only somewhat adequate)
		Poor	Species-habitat relationship is not well understood
Threats	Threat Quality	Adequate	Threat Impact is a single value (including "Unthreatened")
		Marginal	Threat Impact assessed at more than one value (e.g. "High - Medium")
		Poor	Threat Impact is Unknown but Intrinsic Vulnerability is assessed
		Unknown	Threat Impact is Unknown and Intrinsic Vulnerability is not assessed
Trends	Recency	Current	Short-term Trend assessment date less than 10 years old
		Out of Date but Adequate	Short-term Trend assessment date is more than 10 years old or Unknown, but species is Unthreatened
		Out of Date	Short-term Trend assessment date more than 10 years old
		Not Available	Short-term Trend data are not available
	Trend Quality	Sufficient	Short-term Trend assessed at a single value or multiple values with a minimum trend greater than -10% (stable or increasing)
		Unknown but Sufficient	Short-term Trend is Unknown, but species is Unthreatened
		Poor	Short-term Trend is less than -10% (in decline) with two or more values selected
		Unknown	Short-term Trend is Unknown

Summary of Information Availability

Most data are available, but short-term trend is not

Summary of Information Needs

Regular surveys of known occurrences and in suitable habitat within and outside of the current range would provide a baseline for future trend monitoring.

Additional Threat Details

The table below contains the complete threats assessment for this species. While the Conservation Status Rank Calculation is based on cumulative, broadly categorized (Level 1) threats data, threats are assessed and tracked for more specifically categorized (Level 2) threats when available.

Threat Category	Date Assessed	Assessed By	Data Source	Scope	Severity	Imme-diacy	Comments
Agriculture & Aquaculture - 2.1 - Annual & Perennial Non-Timber Crops	2024-10-23	Dan Bachen	MTNHP Data and WWF Plowprint tool	Pervasive	Serious	High	Approximately 90% of suitable habitat occurs on private lands, and in an area at high risk for conversion of native prairies to agriculture