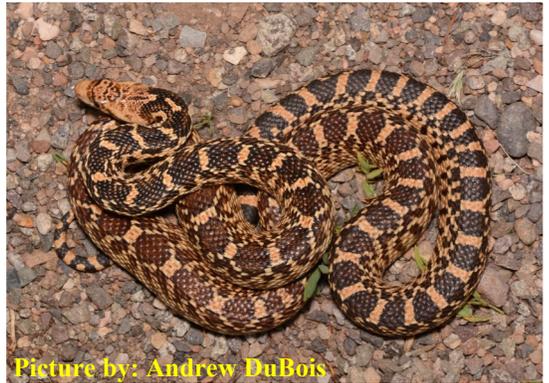


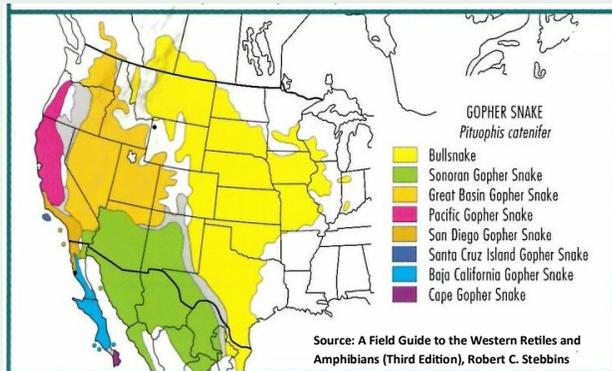
Great Basin Gophersnakes and the Department of Defense



Picture by: Andrew DuBois

The Great Basin Gophersnake (*Pituophis catenifer deserticola*) is one of six subspecies of Gophersnake found in the continental U.S. It is named for its ability to control rodent populations, particularly pocket gophers, in agricultural areas.

Description: Total length of adults is approximately 30 to 72 inches (76.2 to 183 cm). This snake is light tan or cream-colored with large dark (black, brown or reddish brown) dorsal blotches. In the Great Basin subspecies, the contrast between dark blotches and light ground color is more significant than in other subspecies. Most individuals have a dark line between the eyes and another from behind the eyes to the angle of the jaw. The pupils of the eyes are round and the snout is cone-shape.



Range: The Great Basin Gophersnake occurs east of the Cascades in the western U.S., including Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

Habitat: This subspecies prefers open, dry, sandy areas including sagebrush steppe and grassland prairies. In agricultural areas they can often be

spotted at the margins of farmland or around barns.

Behavior: This snake is typically diurnal in the spring and fall and nocturnal in the summer. Eggs are laid in late June/early July, usually in rodent burrows or rock crevices. Eats rodents, rabbits, birds, and occasionally lizards and insects. Constriction is generally used to kill prey. When aroused, may hiss loudly and vibrate its tail.

Conservation Status: The Great Basin Gophersnake has no federal or state listing status. It has a NatureServe conservation ranking of T5-Secure. No major declines have been reported.

Threats: Destruction of habitat and road mortality are threats to this snake. It is also intentionally killed as a result of being mistaken for a rattlesnake.

Occurrence on Military Lands

Confirmed	Potential
Confirmed present on 20 military installations across its range.	Up to an additional 5 military installations across its range.

