

**ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT
HERITAGE DATA MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**

Animal Abstract

Element Code: ARADE02121

Data Sensitivity: No

CLASSIFICATION, NOMENCLATURE, DESCRIPTION, RANGE

NAME: *Crotalus oreganus abyssus*

COMMON NAME: Grand Canyon Rattlesnake

SYNONYMS: *Crotalus confluentus abyssus*, *Crotalus viridi abyssus*

FAMILY: Serpentes: Crotalidae

AUTHOR, PLACE OF PUBLICATION: Klauber 1930. Trans. San Diego Soc. Nat. Hist.,
Vol. 6:114, plate II.

TYPE LOCALITY: Tanner Trail, 300 ft below south rim of the Grand Canyon, Coconino
County, Arizona. Type specimen LMK 2216.

TYPE SPECIMEN:

TAXONOMIC UNIQUENESS: Nearly 30 species in genus *Crotalus*. Five subspecies in *C. oreganus*, three occurring in Arizona.

DESCRIPTION: Total length 26-40 inches. Ground color vermilion or salmon, body blotches obscure (Stebbins 1966:191-192).

AIDS TO IDENTIFICATION:

ILLUSTRATIONS: Color drawing (Stebbins 1966: plate 30)
Color photo (Behler and King 1979: plates
621,623,627,629,630,631,648)

TOTAL RANGE: For *C.oreganus* southern British Columbia to central Baja California, and east to the Rocky Mountains (Douglas et al. 2002). For subspecies *abyssus* see below.

RANGE WITHIN ARIZONA: Grand Canyon of the Colorado River, Grand Canyon National Park, from north rim to south rim.

SPECIES BIOLOGY AND POPULATION TRENDS

BIOLOGY:

REPRODUCTION: 6-13 (average 10) young per live-born brood for this subspecies.

FOOD HABITS: Rodents and lizards.

HABITAT: Rocky cliffs and rocky areas of the Grand Canyon, especially the desert floor.

ELEVATION:

PLANT COMMUNITY:

POPULATION TRENDS: Unknown

SPECIES PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT STATUS:

STATE STATUS:

OTHER STATUS:

MANAGEMENT FACTORS: Continued management emphasis and protection by Grand Canyon National Park.

PROTECTIVE MEASURES TAKEN:

SUGGESTED PROJECTS: Distribution, habitat, population and life history studies.

LAND MANAGEMENT/OWNERSHIP:

SOURCES OF FURTHER INFORMATION

REFERENCES:

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Revised: 1991-03-22 (???)
2020-06-09 (KSL)

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Arizona Game and Fish Department. 19XX (= **year of last revision as indicated at end of abstract**). X...X (= **taxon of animal or plant**). Unpublished abstract compiled and

edited by the Heritage Data Management System, Arizona Game and Fish Department,
Phoenix, AZ. X pp