East Ash Creek and McGee Wash are tributaries of Ash Creek in the headwaters of Trout Creek, and Lookout Wash is a headwater tributary of Knight Creek. Together, Trout and Knight creeks form the Big Sandy River. All of these systems have perennial, interrupted water and intermittent flow, often for fairly short stream reaches (e.g., in Trout Creek T. cyrtopsis were seen only within a 400 m reach); most of these streams are seasonally dry. Surrounding terrestrial habitats are largely Mohave desertscrub and Great Basin conifer woodland, depending on elevation and aspect (Brown 1994. Biotic Communities Southwestern United States and Northwestern Mexico. University of Utah Press, Salt Lake City, Utah. 342 pp.). Riparian communities include perennial reaches dominated by Velvet Ash (Fraxinus pennsylvanica), Cottonwood (Populus fremontii) and Goodding Willow (Salix gooddingii). Other riparian vertebrates at these sites include Lowland Leopard Frog (Rana yavapaiensis) and Speckled Dace (Rhinichthys osculus), although non-native Green Sunfish (Lepomis cyanellus) also occupy some sites.

David Partridge (e-mail: dpartridge@azgfd.gov), Greg Cummins (e-mail: gcummins@azgfd.gov), and Matt Chmiel (e-mail: mchmiel@azgfd.gov), Arizona Game and Fish Department, Phoenix, Arizona. 150 pp.; Hibbitts et al. 2009. Southwest. Nat. 54:461–467) and the species is currently federally-listed as Threatened by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 2014. Fed. Reg. 79:38678–38746). Recent surveys of historical localities in the Black River and Gila River watersheds have produced few to no sightings (Holycross et al. 2006, op. cit.), prompting a listing of the Black River population as “Likely not viable” (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 2014, op. cit.). Additional surveys in these watersheds have also documented apparent local extirpations as a result of catastrophic wildfire (Nowak and Drost 2015. Effects of Wildfires on Threatened Narrow-headed Gartersnakes: 2014 Surveys. Unpubl. interim report to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Geological Survey Southwest Biological Science Center, Flagstaff, Arizona). With watershed declines in eastern Arizona and western New Mexico, the range extension from a mainstem stream into a remote tributary refugium provides an important distribution record and may indicate a possible mechanism of local persistence for the species in the Black River drainage.

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