

**MILK SNAKE**  
**(*LAMPROPELTIS TRIANGULUM*)**

**Navajo/Federal Statuses:** NESL G4 / not listed under the ESA. .

**Distribution:** Range extends from southeastern Canada and all eastern U.S. states, west to MT, central CO and NM, and south through Mexico to Ecuador; also disjunct populations in UT and AZ. Currently no records from Navajo Nation, but has been found in bordering areas (Farmington, Cameron, Bluff, Wupatki National Monument, and Petrified Forest National Park); potential throughout all elevations and habitats of Navajo Nation.

**Habitat:** Secretive species that uses rocks, logs, stumps, boards, and other surface objects as cover, within a variety of habitats including river valleys, desertscrub and grasslands, pinyon-juniper, and coniferous forests; most specimens from NM were found in high foothill grasslands and coniferous forests.

**Similar Species:** Uniquely colored species with thick red or orange bands, bordered by black, and separated by narrow yellow or white bands; 35-135 cm (14-52 inches) length.

**Phenology:**

- e.MAR-1.APR: arousal from hibernation, mating
- e.MAY-e.JUL: egg laying
- e.JUL-1.AUG: hatching of eggs
- 1.AUG-1.OCT: growth of young and end of activity period
- 1.OCT-e.MAR: hibernation

**Survey Method:** Pedestrian survey for individuals 1 APR-1 SEP, or evaluations may be based on the presence of habitat.

**Avoidance:** No surface disturbance within occupied habitat that could result in take of individuals or habitat alteration.

**References:**

Degenhardt, W.G., C.W. Painter, A.H. Price. 1996. Amphibians and Reptiles of New Mexico. University of New Mexico Press, Albuquerque. (description p.284)