



STATE OF NEVADA

DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE

Wildlife Diversity Division

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MEMORANDUM

August 30, 2018

**To:** Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners, County Advisory Boards to Manage Wildlife, and Interested Publics

**From:** Jennifer Newmark, Administrator, Wildlife Diversity Division

**Title:** **Commission General Regulation 479, Rosy Boa Reptile, LCB File No. R152-18 – Wildlife Diversity Administrator Jennifer Newmark and Wildlife Diversity Biologist Jason Jones – For Possible Action**

**Description:** The Commission will consider adopting a regulation relating to amending Chapter 503 of the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC). This amendment would revise the scientific name of the rosy boa, which is classified as a protected reptile, from *Lichanura trivirgata* to *Lichanura orcutti*. This name change is needed due to new scientific studies that have split the species into two distinct entities, one that occurs in Nevada and one that occurs outside the state. Current NAC protects the species outside Nevada rather than the species that occurs within Nevada. The Commission held a workshop on Aug. 10, 2018, and the Commission directed the Department to move forward with an adoption hearing.

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Summary:

A genetics study in 2008 by Woods et al. split the rosy boa into two distinct species – the three-lined boa (*Lichanura trivirgata*) and the rosy boa (*Lichanura orcutti*). This split was formally recognized in 2017 by the Committee on Standard English and Scientific Names by the Society of the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles. Three-lined boas, *Lichanura trivirgata*, occur in Baja California, Southern Arizona and Sonora Mexico, while the rosy boa, *Lichanura orcutti* occur in Nevada, parts of California and northern Arizona.

As currently listed, NAC 503.080 protects the three-lined boa, *Lichanura trivirgata*, a species that does not occur in Nevada. Recognizing the taxonomic change will ensure the species that occurs in Nevada, the rosy boa (*Lichanura orcutti*) will remain protected.

Recommendation:

The Department is recommending the Commission change the name of the rosy boa listed under NAC 503.080 from *Lichanura trivirgata* to *Lichanura orcutti* to protect the correct native species occurring in the state.

**PROPOSED REGULATION OF THE  
BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSIONERS**

**LCB File No. R152-18**

July 9, 2018

EXPLANATION – Matter in *italics* is new; matter in brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

AUTHORITY: §1, NRS 501.105, 501.110 and 501.181.

A REGULATION relating to wildlife; revising the scientific name of the rosy boa snake; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

**Legislative Counsel’s Digest:**

Existing law requires the Board of Wildlife Commissioners to classify wildlife into various categories and further classify wildlife in such categories as protected and unprotected. (NRS 501.110) This regulation revises the scientific name of the rosy boa, which is classified as a protected reptile.

**Section 1.** NAC 503.080 is hereby amended to read as follows:

503.080 1. The following reptiles are classified as protected:

	Common Name	Scientific Name
Lizard	Gila Monster	<i>Heloderma suspectum</i>
	Sierra Alligator	<i>Elgaria coerulea palmeri</i>
	Shasta Alligator	<i>Elgaria coerulea shastaensis</i>
Snake	Rosy boa	<i>Lichanura <del>trivirgata</del> orcutti</i>
	Sonoran Mountain King	<i>Lampropeltis pyromelana</i>

2. The following protected reptile is further classified as threatened:

	Common Name	Scientific Name
Tortoise	Desert	<i>Gopherus agassizi</i>

3. All species of reptiles which are not classified as protected, sensitive, threatened or endangered are unprotected.