

Giant Garter Snake Habitat



Wildlands has created numerous conservation banks and preserves dedicated to the recovery of the giant garter snake (*Thamnophis gigas*), a native California reptile listed as threatened under the Federal Endangered Species Act. Six such preserves are highlighted below.

Wildlands ecologists and design/build team create habitat features to comply with the goals outlined in the *Draft Recovery Plan for the Giant Garter Snake* (US Fish and Wildlife Service 1999). Giant garter snakes (GGS) are aquatic hunters, so the restored habitat includes open water channels for foraging and movement corridors. The channels are bordered with perennial marsh to provide shelter and cover from predators. Islands and other upland areas provide for basking and winter hibernation.

In addition to creating habitat for the company's own GGS banks and preserves, Wildlands has designed and built 682 acres of GGS habitat for the Natomas Basin Conservancy in Sacramento and Sutter Counties. Including 91 acres scheduled to be constructed in 2009, Wildlands will have restored over 2,000 acres of GGS habitat.

Wildlands is an acclaimed pioneer in the wetland mitigation, stream restoration, and species conservation banking industry. Since developing its first bank in 1994, Wildlands has established over 75 mitigation and conservation banks and custom mitigation preserves, and have 25 more in planning and entitlement stages. Wildlands implements its mission -- to create a legacy of thriving and protected natural habitat through ecological and economic cooperation by combining a national vision with local expertise in California, the Pacific Northwest, the Southeast, and the Mid-Atlantic regions of the United States.



For more information about Wildlands, see www.wildlandsinc.com. For more information about GGS, see the US Fish and Wildlife's [species account](#).