

North Carolina Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnake Conservation & Awareness Program

The eastern diamondback rattlesnake (*Crotalus adamanteus*) historically extended its range into the lower 13 counties of southeastern North Carolina inhabiting the well drained soils and upland longleaf pyro-climatic pine forests. As time continues, fewer reports of *Crotalus adamanteus* occur in North Carolina. Various changes in land management, forestry practices, and development have severely impacted North Carolina eastern diamondback rattlesnake populations. In order to conserve this species, a group of interested citizens, land managers, state parks, national forests, land owners, and hunt clubs has been cooperating together and is our primary hope to find and identify remaining populations of *Crotalus adamanteus*. Therefore we must begin to monitor and protect *Crotalus adamanteus* populations in North Carolina, if it's not already too late.

Goals for the NC-EDB-R&ST

- 1) Compile a good database of all upper SC and NC *Crotalus adamanteus* records while also keeping all notes and info on *Crotalus horridus* and *Sistrurus miliarius*.
- 2) Find and identify good habitats.
- 3) Find eastern diamondbacks rattlesnakes in NC and any neighboring SC counties.
- 4) Strong public outreach and awareness programs.
- 5) Then carefully monitor and keep close watch on any populations should we be able to find some.
- 6) Cooperate and work with landowners, foresters, biologists, general public, etc.
- 7) Workshops to conduct management enhancements
- 8) Schedule group field hunts
- 9) Possibly radiotrack a few animals to help understand overwintering preferences, summer range, behaviors, and habitat utilization to extend our knowledge and help protect these animals as part of our natural heritage.

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