



**Common Name** Ridge-nosed rattlesnake

**Scientific Name** *Crotalus willardi obscurus*

**Status** Threatened

**Species Description** A small (2 feet or less) grayish brown snake with a distinct ridge along the upper snout.

**Distribution** The historical and existing ranges of this subspecies are presumed the same. This subspecies also exists in the Sierra de San Luis in Mexico.

**Reasons for Decline** Indiscriminate killing and over-collection for the zoo and pet trades are the main reasons for decline.

**Habitat** This rattlesnake is found in the high mountain pine-oak and pine-fir belts at elevations of 5,700 to 9,000 feet. Indications are that the preferred habitat is the moist woodland and forest and well-illuminated rocky slopes.

**Food** Small lizards and mammals dominate the diet.

**Did You Know?** Rattlesnakes produce eggs, but they are retained within the female full term, so that the young are born alive rather than hatched from external eggs.

