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Amazing Species: Timber Rattlesnake

The **Timber Rattlesnake**, *Crotalus horridus*, is listed as 'Least Concern' on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™. This snake is found in eastern United States, ranging from southern Minnesota and southern New Hampshire, south to east Texas and north Florida. Growing to around a metre in length, it is the third largest venomous snake in the United States.

The primary threats to Timber Rattlesnakes are loss of habitat and habitat fragmentation, causing isolation of populations which may become small and vulnerable. Persecution by humans is a major threat to the species; historically, many northeastern states paid a bounty for any killed rattlesnake and a significant reduction in / or loss of populations was caused by a mere handful of people. Mortality of rattlesnakes caused by road kills is also increasing as their habitat is encroached upon by urban/residential development.

Some states afford Timber Rattlesnakes protection; however, illegal harvesting still regularly occurs. Denning sites and the surrounding areas must be protected and their location kept confidential, and public education is crucial in the success of Timber Rattlesnake conservation.



The production of the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™ is made possible through the IUCN Red List Partnership.