



# United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
Florida Ecological Services Field Office



October 26, 2022

Dear Conservation Partner:

Re: Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnake (*Crotalus adamanteus*) Species Status Assessment

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is beginning to evaluate the status of the eastern diamondback rattlesnake (*Crotalus adamanteus*), in an effort to determine whether the species is warranted for listing as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*)(Act). In the Service's National Listing Workplan (<https://www.fws.gov/endangered/>), the eastern diamondback rattlesnake is scheduled for a status review and determination during fiscal year 2024. The Service will begin to conduct a status review for the eastern diamondback rattlesnake across the entire range during fiscal year 2023.

To inform our decision, the Service is conducting a Species Status Assessment (SSA) by using the best available information to evaluate the species' needs, as well as its past, current, and future conditions for the species. The SSA will be the biological underpinning of the Service's forthcoming decision on whether the eastern diamondback rattlesnake may warrant protection under the Act. Service decision makers will make the determination after reviewing the SSA Report and all relevant laws, regulations, and policies. The results of the proposed decision will be announced in the Federal Register.

To ensure the Service has the most current and best available information, we are asking you for specific information on the eastern diamondback rattlesnake, including:

- a) Species' distribution, taxonomy, ecology, and life history;
- b) Positive and negative survey data;
- c) Stressors to the species or its habitat; and,
- d) Conservation actions that may benefit the species or its habitat.

Information from within any portion of the species' range is being requested. Unpublished reports, habitat-related publications, or data that have not been included in the peer reviewed literature will be useful. If spatial and/or tabular data are available that will be particularly helpful and include metadata, please provide this information. However, the Service will accept information in any format that you can provide.

Although the Service will accept new information throughout the SSA process, we would appreciate your response by November 30, 2022, if possible, to ensure we have adequate time to consider the information during our status review. Information should be submitted to the following email: [Eastern\\_diamonback@fws.gov](mailto:Eastern_diamonback@fws.gov). All data and information submitted to us, including names and addresses, would become part of the administrative record.

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If you would like additional information or have questions about the eastern diamondback rattlesnake SSA, please contact Mr. Harold Mitchell or Ms. Jo Emanuel via email at [Eastern\\_diamonback@fws.gov](mailto:Eastern_diamonback@fws.gov).

Thank you for your interest in the conservation of at-risk, threatened, and endangered species.

Sincerely,

Lourdes Mena  
Manager, Division of Classification and Recovery  
And  
Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnake SSA Team