

# ENVIRONMENTAL DIVISION NEWSLETTER

Issue: September 2021



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843-228-3066

Conservation Law  
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843-228-3799

Wildlife Biologist  
843-228-2663

## EASTERN DIAMONDBACK RATTLESNAKE

The eastern diamondback rattlesnake (EDB) is the largest of the 32 recognized species of rattlesnake. As the only venomous species on Parris Island, EDBs can reach lengths of 3 to 8 feet, have a natural life span of 15 to 20 years, and can tip the scales at over 10 pounds. Mating season occurs from July to October and EDBs are more likely to be observed during this period.



### **Q: What is the range and habitat of an EDB?**

A: This species usually inhabits dry sandy areas, palmetto or pine forests, coastal dune habitats, or small isolated forested islands. EDBs are accomplished swimmers and even travel through saltwater to and from barrier islands.

### **Q: What is the conservation status of the EDB?**

A: This species is declining and is currently in review for federal protection under the Endangered Species Act. Parris Island actively monitors and tracks our population in order to understand the species, its habitat, and how to manage it around the recruit training mission.

### **Q: What if I encounter a rattlesnake on the Depot?**

A: **DO NOT ATTEMPT TO HARM, CAPTURE, OR KILL THE SNAKE!** Maintain a safe distance from the snake and immediately contact Natural Resources personnel. Do your best to maintain visual contact with the snake until the arrival of Natural Resources personnel.

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For More Environmental Division Support

SharePoint: <https://eis.usmc.mil/mcrdpi/g4/endiv/SitePages/Home.aspx>

Website: <https://www.mcrdpi.marines.mil/Resources/Environmental-Division/>

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