

Getting to know the Great Basin Rattlesnake

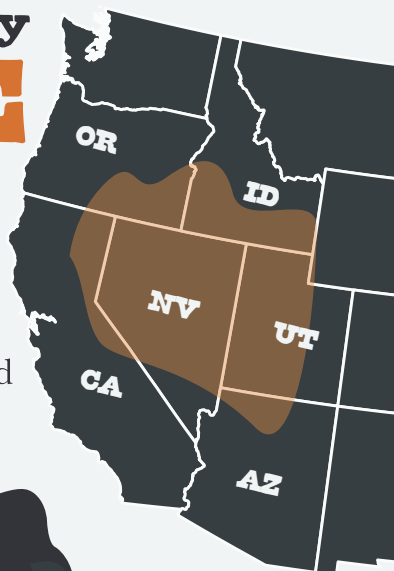
How are they CLASSIFIED

Class: REPTILIA
Order: SQUAMATA
Family: VIPERIDAE
Genus: CROTALUS
Species: OREGANUS LUTOSUS

The Great Basin Rattlesnake is a relative of the Western Diamondback, Sidewinder, and Mojave Rattlesnake.

Where do they LIVE

Great Basin Rattlesnakes live in Northern Nevada and have been found in parts of California, Oregon, Idaho, Utah and Arizona. They are found in hot rocky areas below 8,000 ft. elevation.



What do they EAT

The Great Basin Rattlesnake is a venomous carnivore that will eat most small mammals, birds, insects, reptiles and amphibians. It will use its venom to immobilize the prey before swallowing it whole.

Like most snakes, the Great Basin Rattlesnake can open its mouth at a 150 degree angle to consume larger prey!

150°



IDENTIFICATION

Great Basin Rattlesnakes can range in size, but adults are generally 3-4 feet long. They also range in color from light brown to gray, making it easier to blend into their environment.

Two "pits" above the mouth

Great Basin Rattlesnakes are a form of "pit viper" meaning they have two "pits" above the mouth used to sense heat from its prey.

Triangular head

Observing the triangular shaped head is one of the best ways to determine if the species is a rattlesnake.

Dark colored spots

Light colored belly

Wide body

When threatened, the Great Basin Rattlesnake will puff up its body to make it look even wider.

Hallow interlocking rattle

Are Rattlesnakes DANGEROUS

Only 30-40% of rattlesnake bites are accompanied with venom; they prefer not to waste venom on a defensive attack. All rattlesnake bites, however, should be considered a medical emergency!

CALL

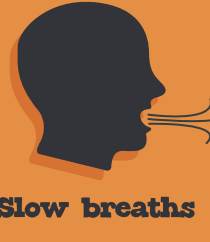


Seek medical attention within 30 minutes

After calling 911



Wrap it



Slow breaths



Lie down

Avoid potential bites by remembering "SNAKE"

SPORT CLOSE-TOED SHOES AND LONG PANTS

NEVER HIKE OFF TRAIL

ALWAYS CHECK BEFORE YOU STEP

KEEP OUT OF GRASS AND HEAVY BRUSH

ESCAPE IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION IF YOU HEAR A WARNING RATTLE



Carson City Parks, Rec & Open Space

Sources

- https://www.researchgate.net/figure/Approximate-distribution-of-the-Great-Basin-Rattlesnake-Crotalus-lutosus-after-Stebbins_fig1_228349752
- <http://www.californiaherps.com/snakes/pages/c.o.lutosus.html>
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