

A MONUMENTAL RECOVERY MISSION



The New Mexico Ridge-nosed Rattlesnake (*Crotalus willardi obscurus*) is one of North America's rarest snakes, surviving in just three isolated populations across the rugged mountains of New Mexico, Arizona, Chihuahua, and Sonora.

This species is federally listed as **Threatened** under the Endangered Species Act—one of only two rattlesnakes to receive such protection. It is also state-protected in New Mexico and Arizona, and in Mexico all Ridge-nosed Rattlesnakes are given "Special Protection" by SEMARNAT.

These snakes face serious challenges from climate change, habitat loss, and their own rarity. Wildfires, intensified by shifting weather patterns, are transforming the mountain forests they rely on—ecosystems that may take decades to recover.

With few populations and limited genetic diversity, the species is highly vulnerable to decline.

Yet there is hope. **Project Obscurus** is a groundbreaking international effort that brings together scientists, agencies, zoos, private landowners, non-profits, and volunteers from both sides of the border. Their shared mission is to recover the New Mexico Ridge-nosed Rattlesnake and protect an irreplaceable part of our natural heritage.



The Rattlesnake Conservancy
WWW.SAVETHEBUZZTAILS.ORG



PROJECT OBSCURUS

RECOVERING THE THREATENED NEW MEXICO
RIDGE-NOSED RATTLESNAKE



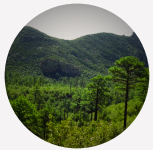
COLLABORATION

Project Obscurus is supported through a Recovery Challenge Grant awarded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to The Rattlesnake Conservancy and is made possible through key partnerships and local support.

Scan here for more information, resources, and to stay up to date on Project Obscurus!



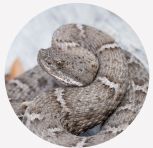
PROJECT GOALS



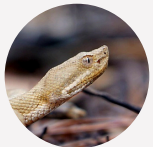
Better understand the environmental needs of this rare rattlesnake.



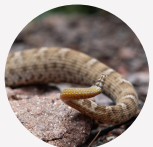
Continue long-term surveys across its historic range.



Develop a captive breeding program at leading zoos.



Strengthen the genetic health of wild populations.



Share knowledge about the rattlesnake's importance, life history, and role in the ecosystem.

SIZE AND CHARACTERISTICS

This rare rattlesnake is named for the tiny ridge that runs across its nose. Slender and graceful, adults seldom grow longer than two feet. Unlike its brightly patterned cousins, the New Mexico Ridge-nosed Rattlesnake is mostly gray and usually lacks the bold facial stripes seen in other subspecies.



Our partners at Rancho Carrizo, the Chavez family.