

Prairie Rattlesnake (*Crotalus viridis*) Conservation Status Rank Summary

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For details on assessment and ranking methodology, see: [Conservation Status Assessment Definitions, Process, Rank Factors, and Calculation of State Ranks for Montana Species](#)

Rarity and Trends

Rank Factor	Date Assessed	Value Factor Rating	Score	Data Source	Comments
Rarity					
Range Extent	2025-01-28	343961.6 km ² G = 200,000- 2,500,000 km ²	4.710	MTNHP Range Maps	None
Area of Occupancy			-		Factor not used in ranking.
Number of Occurrences			-		Factor not used in ranking.
Population Size			-		Factor not used in ranking.
# of Occurrences in Good Condition			-		Factor not used in ranking.
% of Area Occupied in Good Condition			-		Factor not used in ranking.
Environmental Specificity	2018-05-03	Moderate C = Moderate; generalist or community with some key requirements scarce	3.670	MTNHP Species Rank Data Table	Found in association with a diversity of habitat types provided adequate cover exists Methodology: NS (2003) Original Score: C
Rarity is calculated by averaging weighted factor scores: $((4.71 \times 1) + (3.67 \times 1)) / 2 = 4.19$					
Trends					
Short-term Trend	2018-05-03	* U = Unknown	-	MTNHP Species Rank Data Table	Factor not used in ranking. No data on trends available Methodology: NS (2003) Original Score: U
Long-term Trend	2025-01-28	* F = Decline of 10 - 30%	-0.070		None
Trends score is calculated by summing weighted short and long-term trend scores: $((-0.07 \times 1)) = -0.07$					

*Values may be absent if not precisely estimated; factors may still be assessed for rank if a Factor Rating can be assigned.

Threats

Rank Factor	Date Assessed	Value Factor Rating	Score	Data Source	Comments
Threats					
Overall Threat Impact		Medium C = Medium	3.670		Human persecution/ development of area occupied by this species, mortality on roads due to vehicles.
Intrinsic Vulnerability	2018-05-03	Moderately vulnerable B = Moderately vulnerable	-	MTNHP Species Rank Data Table	Factor not used in ranking. Moderately Vulnerable. Species exhibits moderate age of maturity, frequency of reproduction, and/or fecundity such that populations generally tend to recover from decreases in abundance within 5-20 years or 2-5 generations. Species has good dispersal ca Methodology: NS (2003) Original Score: B
Threat score is calculated from Overall Threat Impact when available or Intrinsic Vulnerability if not: (3.67) = 3.67					

Individual Threats Data

Threat Category	Date Assessed	Impact Score	Scope	Severity	Immediacy	Comments
Agriculture & Aquaculture	2026-04-15	Low	Restricted	Moderate	High	Habitat loss from conversion to cropland. Based on range, largest threat for conversion is cropland.
Transportation & Service Corridors	2025-01-28	Low	Restricted	Moderate	High	Mortality of basking individuals on roads
Biological Resource Use	2025-01-28	Medium	Large	Moderate	High	Human persecution may have minor local effects
Threat Tally: 0 - Very High, 0 - High, 1 - Medium, 2 - Low Overall Threat Impact* = Medium						

*See [Conservation Status Assessment Definitions, Process, Rank Factors, and Calculation of State Ranks for Montana Species](#) for calculation of Overall Threat Impact based on the number and impact of individual threats.

Conservation Status Rank Calculation

Raw score

Rarity: $(4.19 \times 70\%)$ + Threats: $(3.67 \times 30\%)$ + Trends: (-0.07) = 3.96

Calculated Rank: S4

Accepted Rank	S4
Author(s)	Dan Bachen
Rank Approved By	MTNHP Staff
State Rank Reason	Species is relatively common within suitable habitat and widely distributed across portions of the state.

Supplementary Information

Montana Natural Heritage Program. 2021. Conservation Status Assessment Definitions, Process, Rank Factors, and Calculation of State Ranks for Montana Species. 18 p.

https://mtnhp.mt.gov/docs/Montana_State_Rank_Criteria_20211201.pdf

Montana Field Guide Species Account:

<https://fieldguide.mt.gov/speciesDetail.aspx?elcode=ARADE02120>

Predicted Suitable Habitat Model:

<https://mtnhp.mt.gov/resources/models/?elcode=ARADE02120>

Additional Threat Details

The table below contains the complete threats assessment for this species. While the Conservation Status Rank Calculation is based on cumulative, broadly categorized (Level 1) threats data, threats are assessed and tracked for more specifically categorized (Level 2) threats when available.

Threat Category	Date Assessed	Assessed By	Data Source	Scope	Severity	Immediacy	Comments
Agriculture & Aquaculture - 2.1 - Annual & Perennial Non-Timber Crops	2026-04-15	Dan Bachen	SWAP Assessment	Restricted	Moderate	High	Habitat loss from conversion to cropland. Based on range, largest threat for conversion is cropland.
Transportation & Service Corridors - 4.1 - Roads & Railroads	2025-01-28	Dan Bachen	Expert Opinion	Restricted	Moderate	High	Mortality of basking individuals on roads
Biological Resource Use - 5.1 - Hunting & Collecting Terrestrial Animals	2025-01-28	Dan Bachen	Expert Opinion	Large	Moderate	High	Human persecution may have minor local effects