

Diamondback Water Snake *Nerodia rhombifera*

Habitat Preference: Quiet pools, drainage ditches, and backwater sloughs with abundant basking sites. Overhanging vegetation appears to be important.

Threats:

- Loss of grass upland around wetlands to woody invasion.
- Killing by people who mistake them for venomous species.
- Vehicle fatalities.



Habitat Improvement Guidelines:

- Prescribed burns should be conducted on areas that have remained native grassland. Burn on a 3-5 year rotation to keep woody invasion from taking over the site. Areas should be divided into multiple burn units.
- Remove encroaching woody species by cutting or herbicide treatment. These snakes avoid wetlands and ponds that are heavily wooded. Removing taller trees and allowing for brush or grass riparian areas will promote Diamondback water snake use.
- Logs or other basking areas should be left alone or created.
- Establishment of new grassland areas is essential.