

Copperbelly Water Snake *Nerodia erythrogaster neglecta*

Habitat Preference: Wetlands with mature timber. Large wetland complexes with abundant upland buffer areas.

Threats:

- Drainage of wetlands for agricultural and urban development.
- Loss of surrounding uplands to agricultural development.
- Ephemeral pools have silted in and no longer hold water.
- Timber harvests of large areas can remove appropriate mature timber in copperbelly water snake habitat.
- Conversion of forest to other uses.
- Fragmentation increases mortality as copperbellies travel between wetlands.



Habitat Improvement Guidelines:

- Maintain high-density wetland landscapes with riparian corridors for snake to travel safely between wetlands. Copperbellies frequently move between wetlands and may occupy areas over 30 acres.
- Some timber harvests may be useful to maintain a diversity of forest types.
- Ephemeral pools should be excavated to retain water during spring.
- The woodlands surrounding these wetland areas should have limited disturbance during the snakes' active season; between April and October.
- Develop brush piles for cover and basking.
- Restore drained wetlands when feasible.