

# SOUTHERN HOGNOSE SNAKE

*Heterodon simus*



**ID TIPS** Small, stout-bodied snake with an upturned snout. Patterns of dark brown blotches on a tan or light gray background. Their bellies are whitish and usually mottled with gray or dark brown.

**HABITAT** Sandhills, sand ridges, dry pine-oak-wiregrass associations, oak hammocks, and occasionally coastal dunes.

**BREEDING** Clutches of 6-14 eggs laid in sandy soil or logs in the summer. The eggs hatch in September - October.

**FOOD** Primarily toads, but also other amphibians and lizards

## CONSERVATION STATUS

State threatened,  
Federal at-risk species

## ACTIVITIES & STRATEGIES

Retain stumps and fallen logs as these snakes spend most of their time underground.

Prescribed fire in longleaf pine stands every 2-3 years.

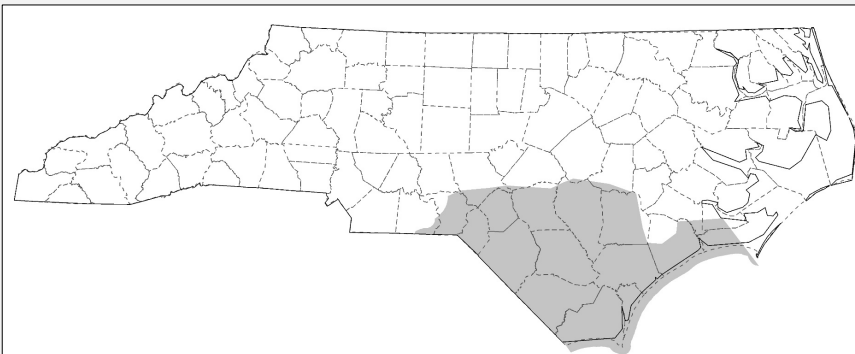
Thinning to keep the canopy open. If there is an isolated wetland within the stand, thin around the edges.

**TIMING** Prescribed burns should take place during the historical time of fire in the longleaf ecosystem, from May through July.

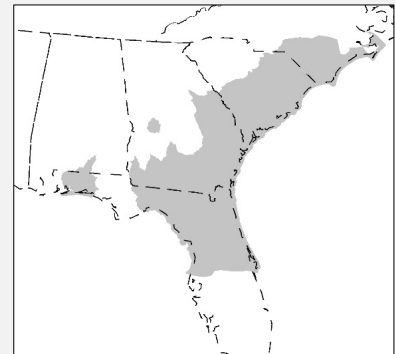
## FOREST USE AT A GLANCE

Dry upland forests

## NORTH CAROLINA DISTRIBUTION



## RANGEWIDE



## DID YOU KNOW?

When threatened, these snakes hiss and spread their necks like a cobras. If further threatened, a hognose snake will roll over and feign death.