

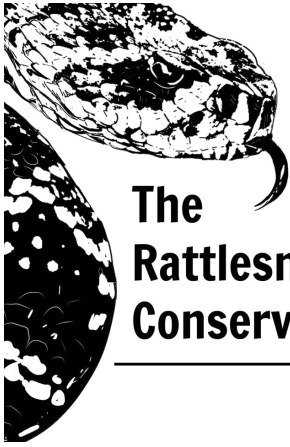


The Rattlesnake Conservancy

RATTLESNAKES of Texas coloring book

An educator resource illustrated by Mike Van Valen
written and produced by The Rattlesnake Conservancy

www.savethebuzztails.org



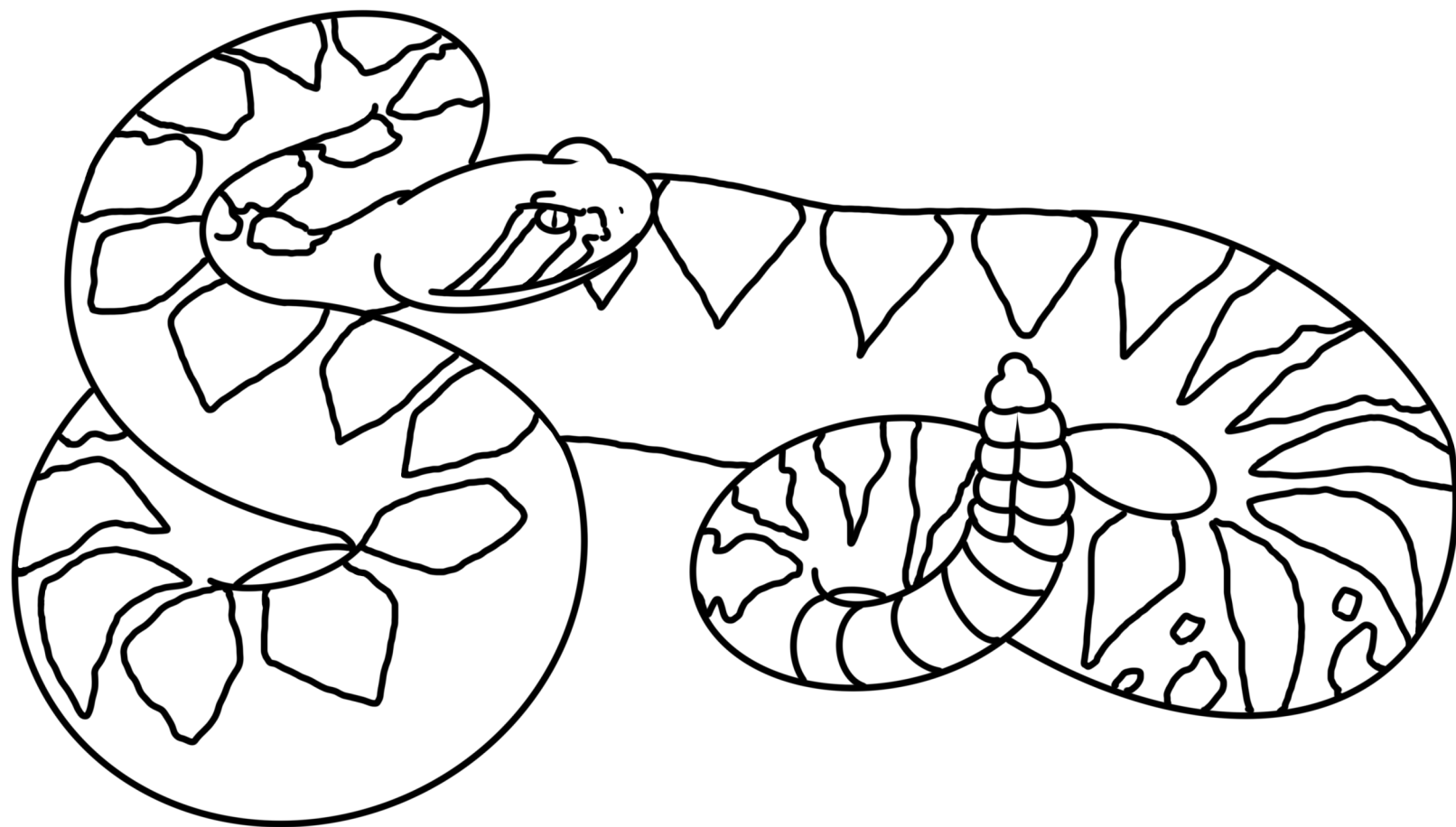
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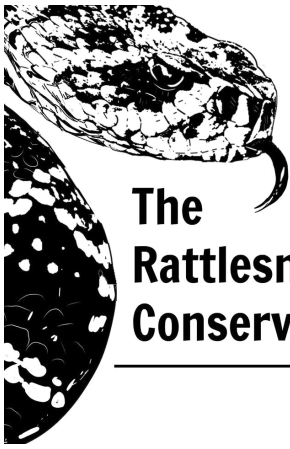
Western Diamondback Rattlesnake

Crotalus atrox

The western diamondback is a large rattlesnake known for its diamond pattern with average adults reaching lengths between 36-60 inches! These impressive snakes are the most common and widespread venomous snake in Texas, and can be found throughout all but the most eastern portion of the state. The western diamondback can be found in a variety of dry habitat including deserts, scrubland, grasslands, pastures, elevated hillsides, and prairies.

How to color: The western diamondback rattlesnake has a gray to tan or pinkish tan body with darker brown diamonds down its back that have cream colored borders and dark blotches. The large, thick head has a dark stripe through each eye with cream colored borders. The diamond pattern stops at a tail marked by alternating black and white bands which end in a light tan colored rattle.





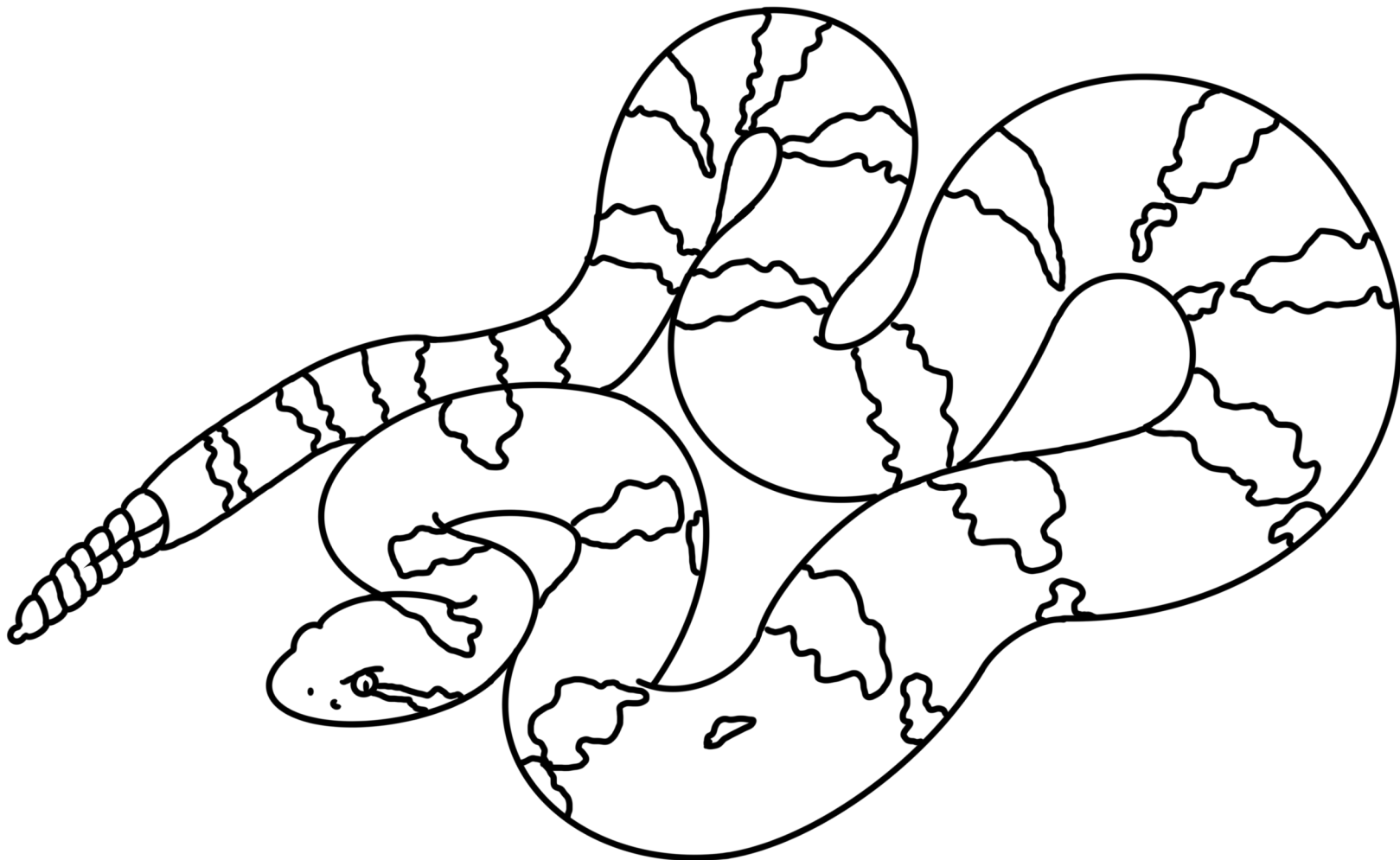
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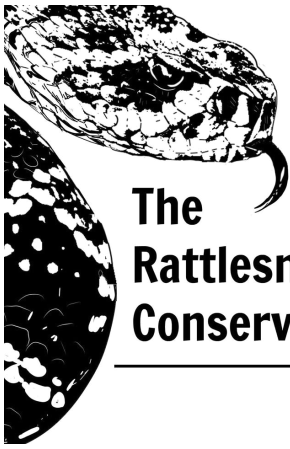
Banded Rock Rattlesnake

Crotalus lepidus klauberi

The banded rock rattlesnake is a fairly small species with average adults reaching lengths typically under 32 inches! These snakes can be found at high elevations in only the extreme western tip of the state. As its name suggests, the banded rock rattlesnake can be found in a variety of rocky habitats including rock outcroppings, stream beds, rocky slopes, and can occasionally be found in lower grassland communities.

How to color: The banded rock rattlesnake is variable species which is typically a light greenish gray to pinkish gray or tan in color with a series of jagged, darkly brown or black colored bands and speckles.





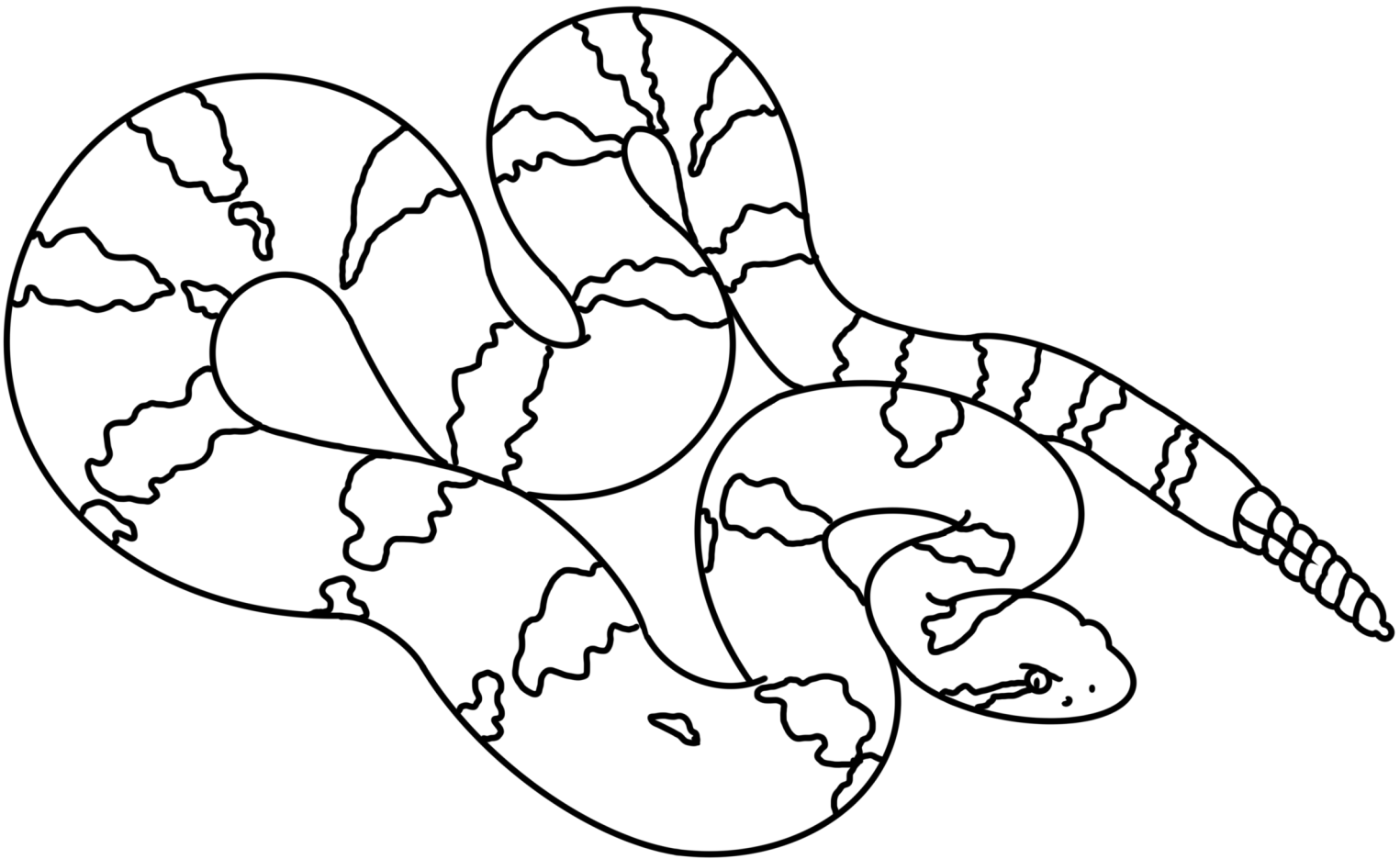
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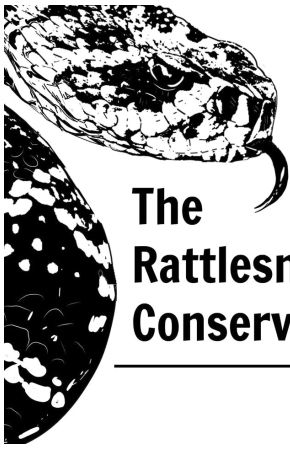
Mottled Rock Rattlesnake

Crotalus lepidus lepidus

The mottled rock rattlesnake is a fairly small species with average adults reaching lengths typically under 32 inches! These snakes can be found at high elevations in only the extreme western tip of the state. As its name suggests, the mottled rock rattlesnake can be found in a variety of rocky habitats including rock outcroppings, stream beds, rocky slopes, and can occasionally be found in lower grassland communities.

How to color: The mottled rock rattlesnake is similar in color to the banded rock rattlesnake, but usually a lighter pinkish cream or tan in color with a series of jagged, darker colored bands and speckles between.





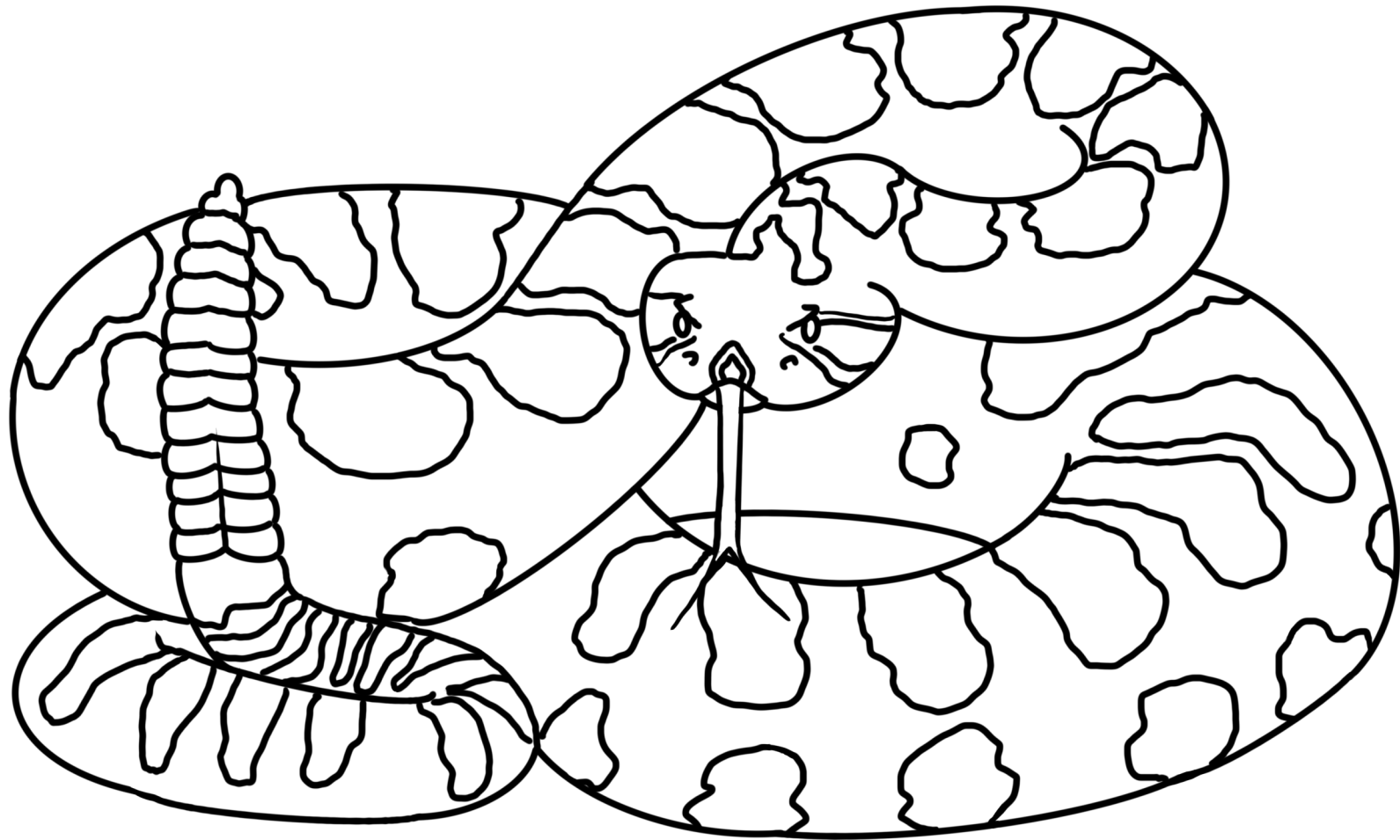
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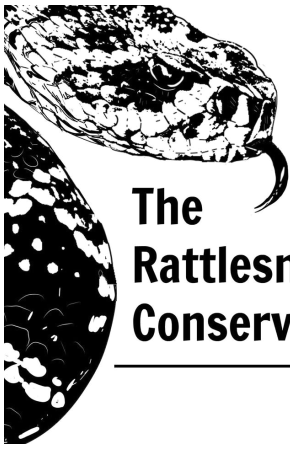
Prairie Rattlesnake

Crotalus viridis

The prairie rattlesnake is a highly variable species of rattlesnake which can reach lengths of 28 to 64 inches! The prairie rattlesnake can be found in the western portion of the state in a variety of habitats including grasslands, woodlands, plains, and prairies where food sources are abundant.

How to color: The prairie rattlesnake can be yellow to pinkish or greenish tan in color with large, dark brown colored blotches often with a thin white or cream border and two smaller rows of blotches at each side of its body. It has a triangular shaped head with dark brown to black and cream colored bars extending from the eyes to the mouth.





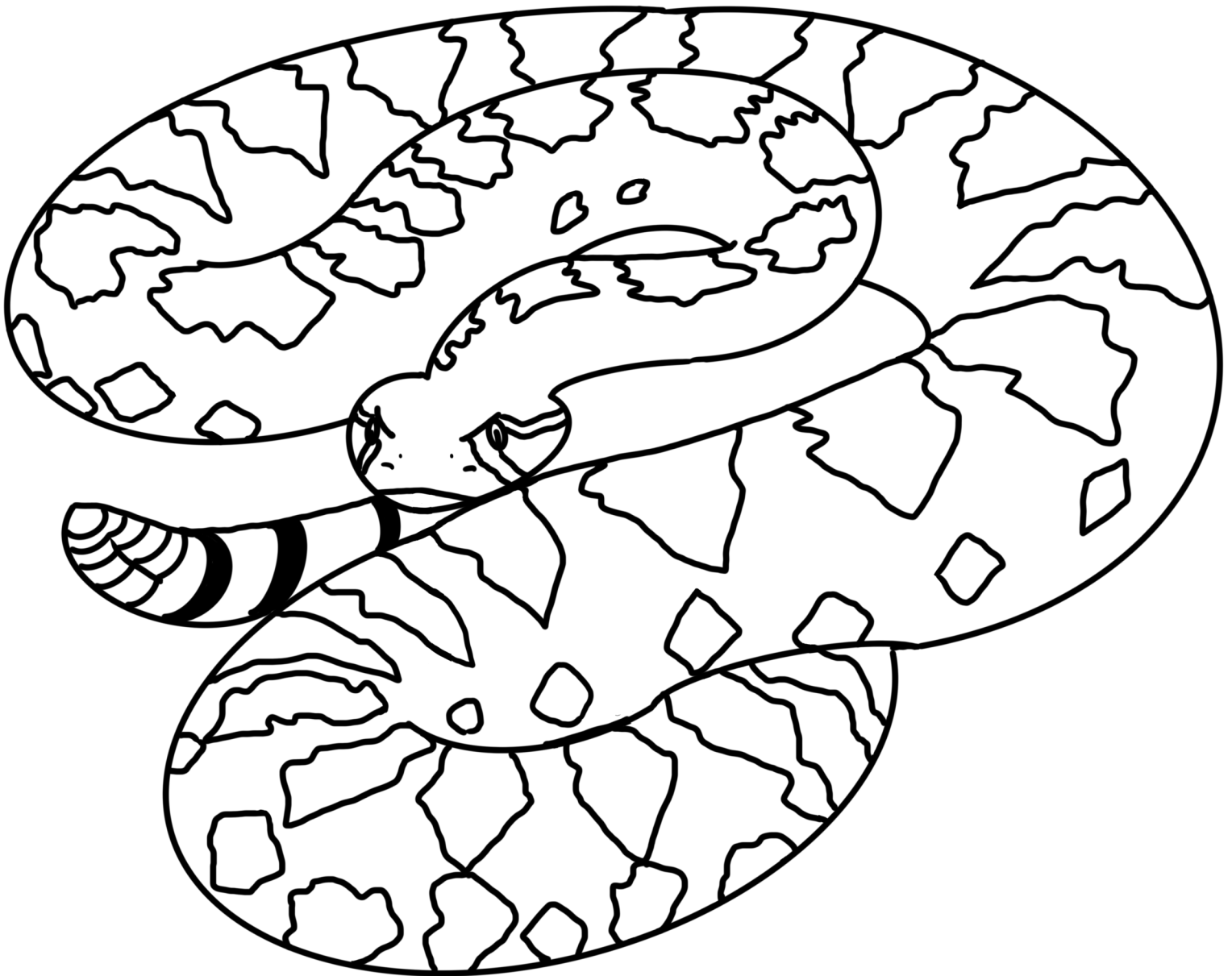
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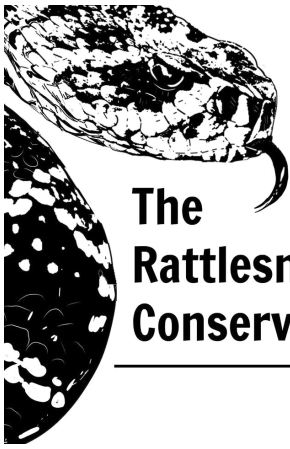
Mojave Rattlesnake

Crotalus scutulatus

The Mojave rattlesnake is a large, heavy bodied snake with adults typically reaching impressive lengths of up to 50 inches! The Mojave rattlesnake ranges only through the extreme western portion of the state and can be found in a wide variety of typically flat habitat including desert, desertscrub, valleys, foothills, and some grassland communities. This snake is most frequently mistaken for the western diamondback rattlesnake.

How to color: The Mojave rattlesnake is a greenish gray to tan or brown colored rattlesnake with a series of darker gray to brown colored blotches down the center of its back. The blotches have dark edges and end in a pale, grayish colored tail with dark bands that are more narrow than the spaces between them.





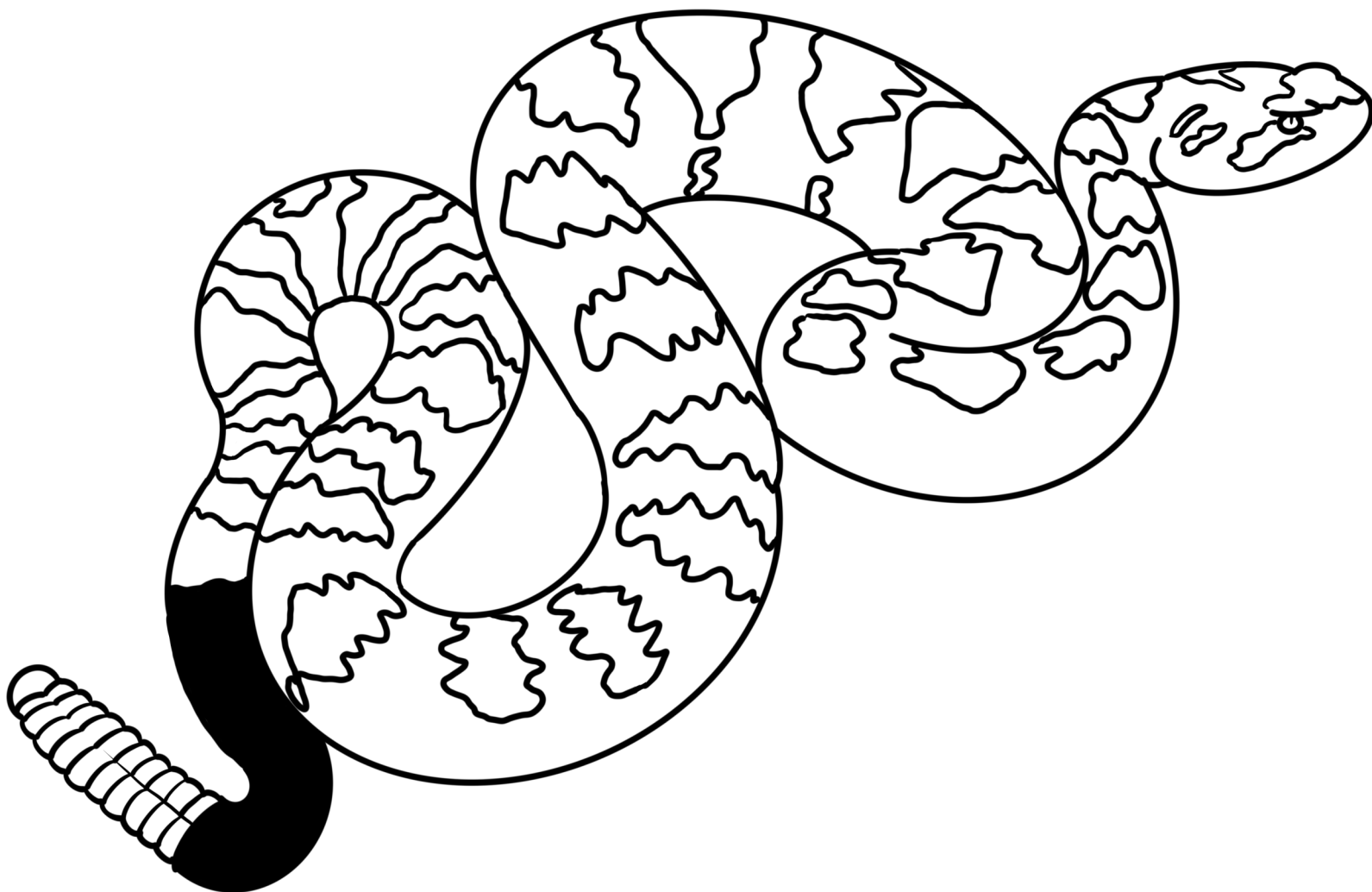
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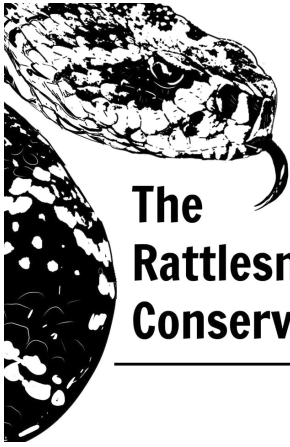
Black-tailed Rattlesnake

Crotalus ornatus

The black-tailed rattlesnake is a large species of rattlesnake with adults reaching lengths of up to 48 inches! The black-tailed rattlesnake can be found all across the central and western portion of the state in typically rugged terrain including rocky, mountainous, and woodland forest habitats. This type of rattlesnake is known for climbing, and can often be found in trees throughout its range!

How to color: The black tailed rattlesnake is golden brown to yellowish gray or tan snake with large, black or brown colored blotches which are lighter in the center and on the outside edge down the length of its back. This snake has a dark stripe through each eye and across the top of its head between the eyes and snout. Its pattern ends in a distinctive dark gray to black colored tail.





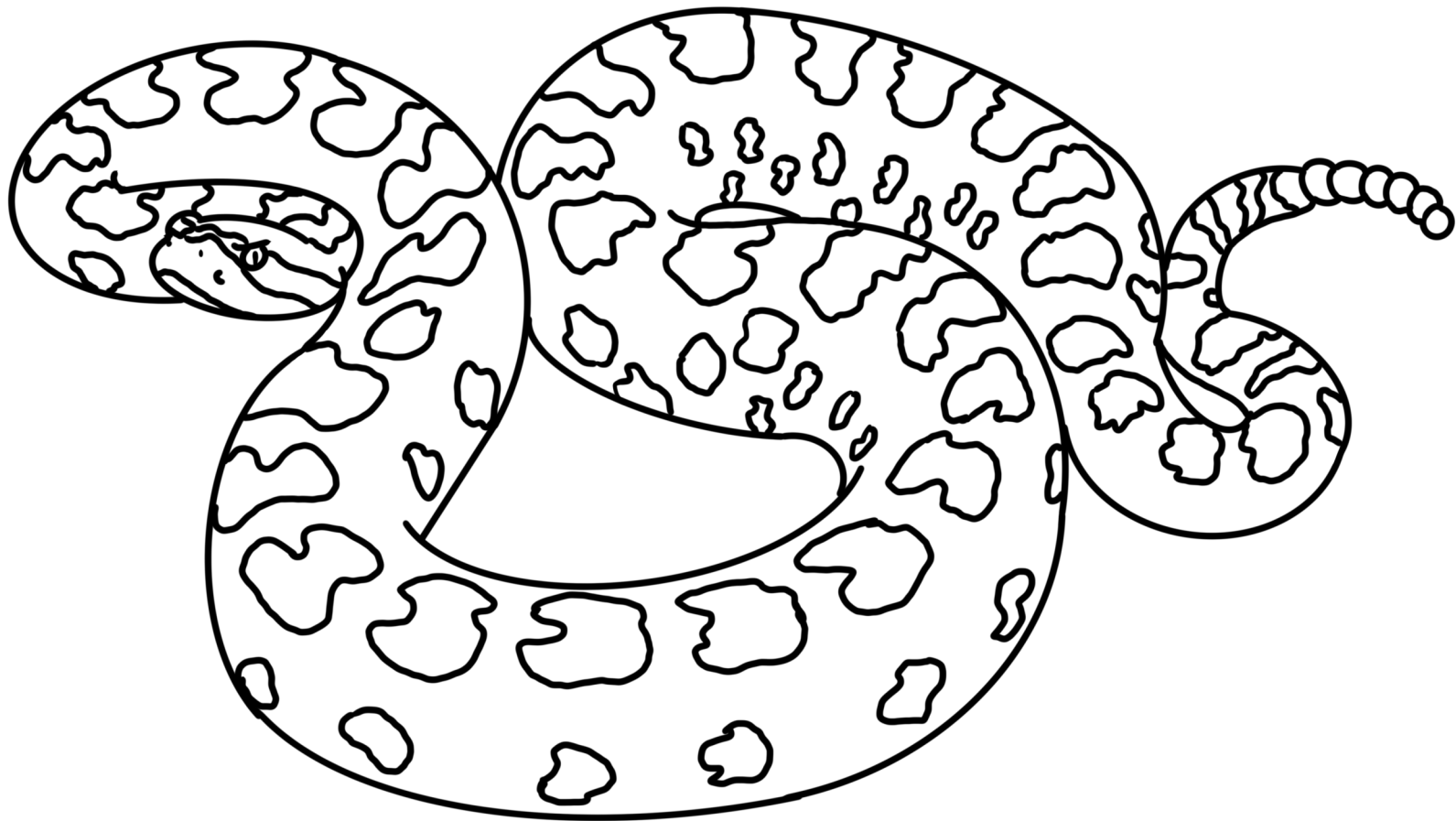
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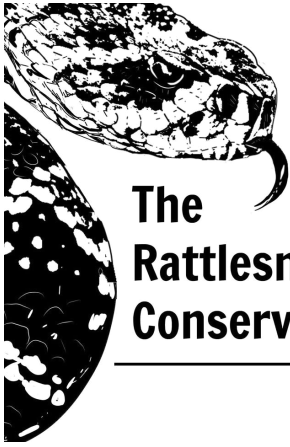
Western Massasauga

Sistrurus tergeminus

The western massasauga is a small rattlesnake species with adults typically not exceeding 22 inches in length. The western massasauga can be found in northern portions of the Trans-Pecos and the Permian Basin region, through the remaining vestiges of prairie along the Gulf Coast, central Texas, the eastern Panhandle and into south Texas. These snakes are found typically in grassland habitat.

How to color: The western massasauga is a light gray to tan rattlesnake with large, dark brown to brownish black blotches running down its length. It has a dark brown to brownish black stripe through the eye on each side of its head. Juveniles may have a yellow tail, or caudal lure, which they use to attract prey!





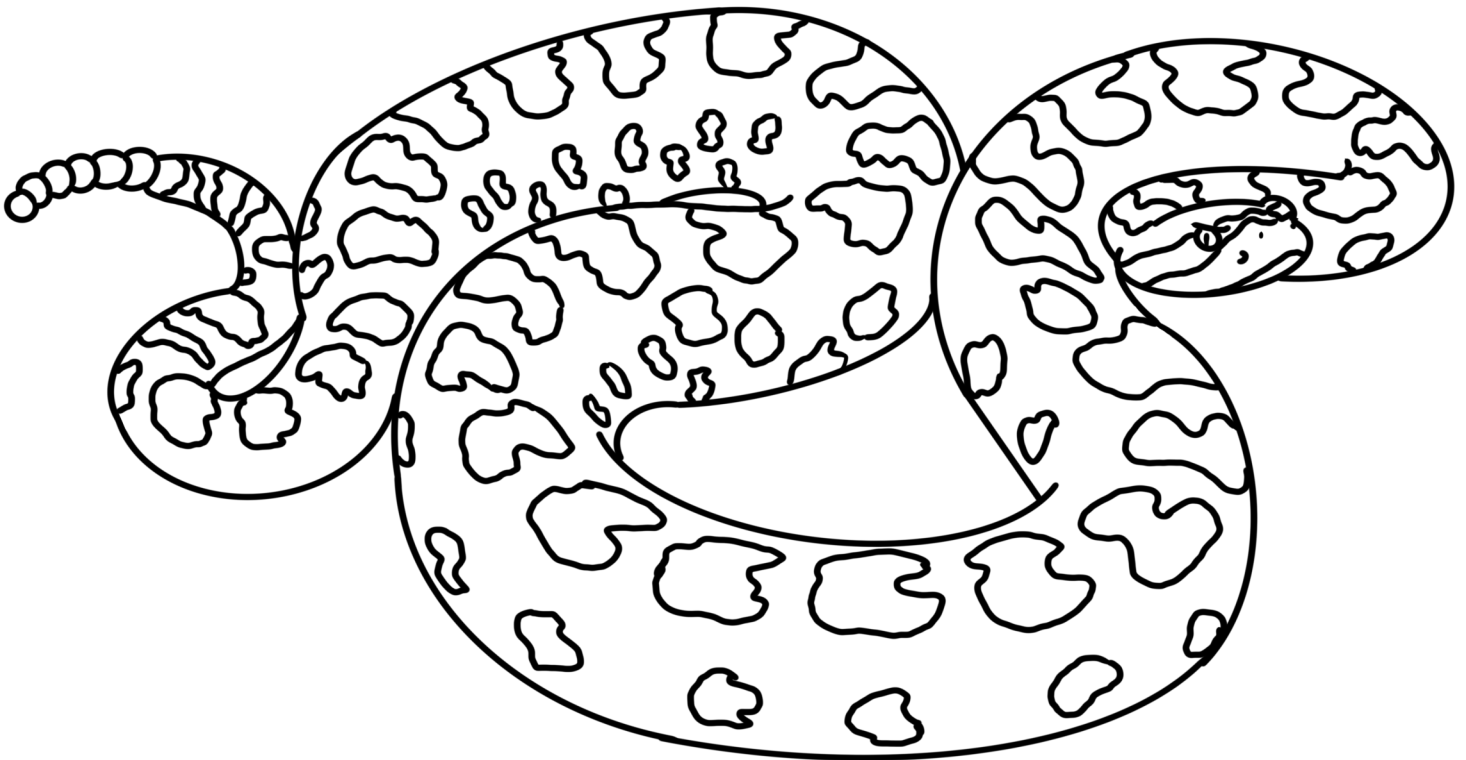
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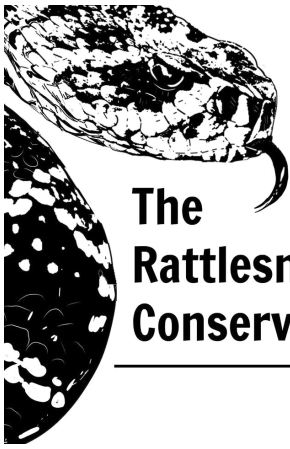
Desert Massasauga

Sistrurus tergeminus edwardsii

The desert massasauga is a small rattlesnake species with adults typically not exceeding 22 inches in length. It's lighter in color and more slender than the western massasauga. The desert massasauga can be found in the Trans-Pecos region, western panhandle and the lower Rio Grande Valley. These snakes are found typically in dry, rocky, desert grassland habitat.

How to color: The desert massasauga is a cream to light tan or grayish tan colored rattlesnake with large, darker brown blotches running down its length. It has a dark brown to brownish black stripe through the eye on each side of its head. Juveniles may have a yellow tail, or caudal lure, which they use to attract prey!





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Canebrake / Timber

Crotalus horridus

The canebrake, or timber rattlesnake, is a large, thick bodied snake with average adults reaching lengths between 36-60 inches! This snake can only be found in the eastern third of the state where its unique pattern provides the perfect camouflage to blend in with its surroundings. The canebrake rattlesnake can be found throughout its range in low, damp bottomlands like river beds, hardwood hammocks, pine flatwoods, swamps, and cane thickets.

How to color: The canebrake, or timber rattlesnake has a pinkish tan or gray colored body with a rust colored stripe down the center of its back. It has a unique pattern of black, chevron crossbands with a black tail that ends in a light colored rattle.

