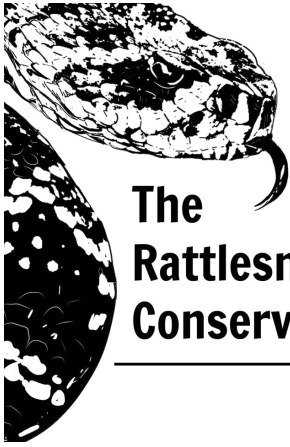




The Rattlesnake Conservancy

RATTLESNAKES of Arizona coloring book

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



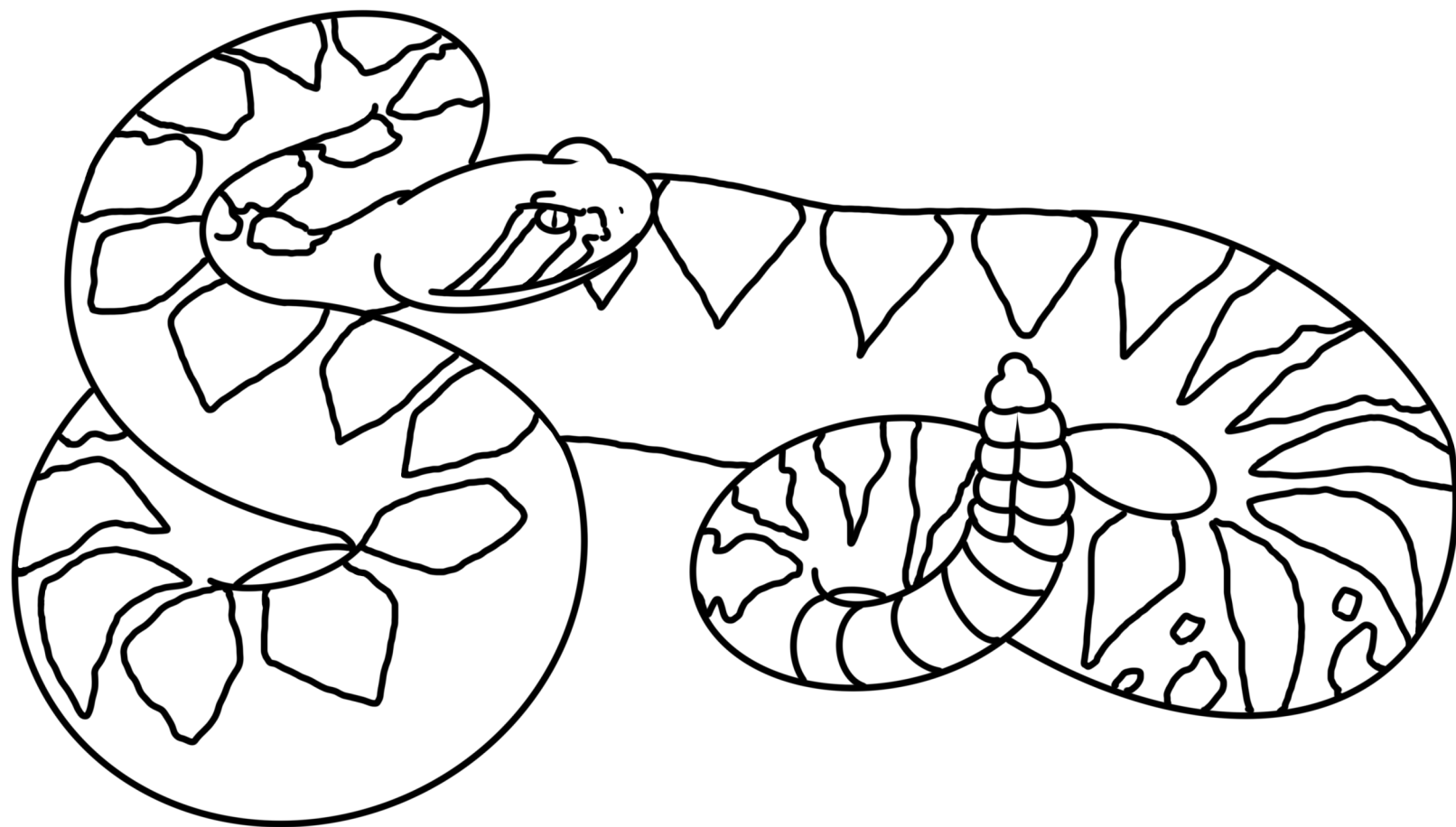
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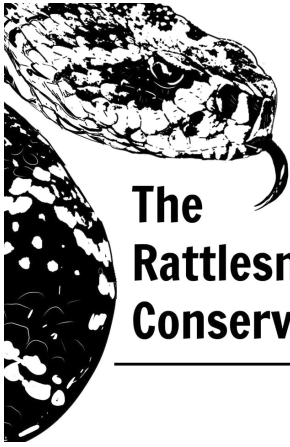
Western Diamondback Rattlesnake

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 largest rattlesnake of Arizona, and can be found throughout the entire southern and most of the western 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.





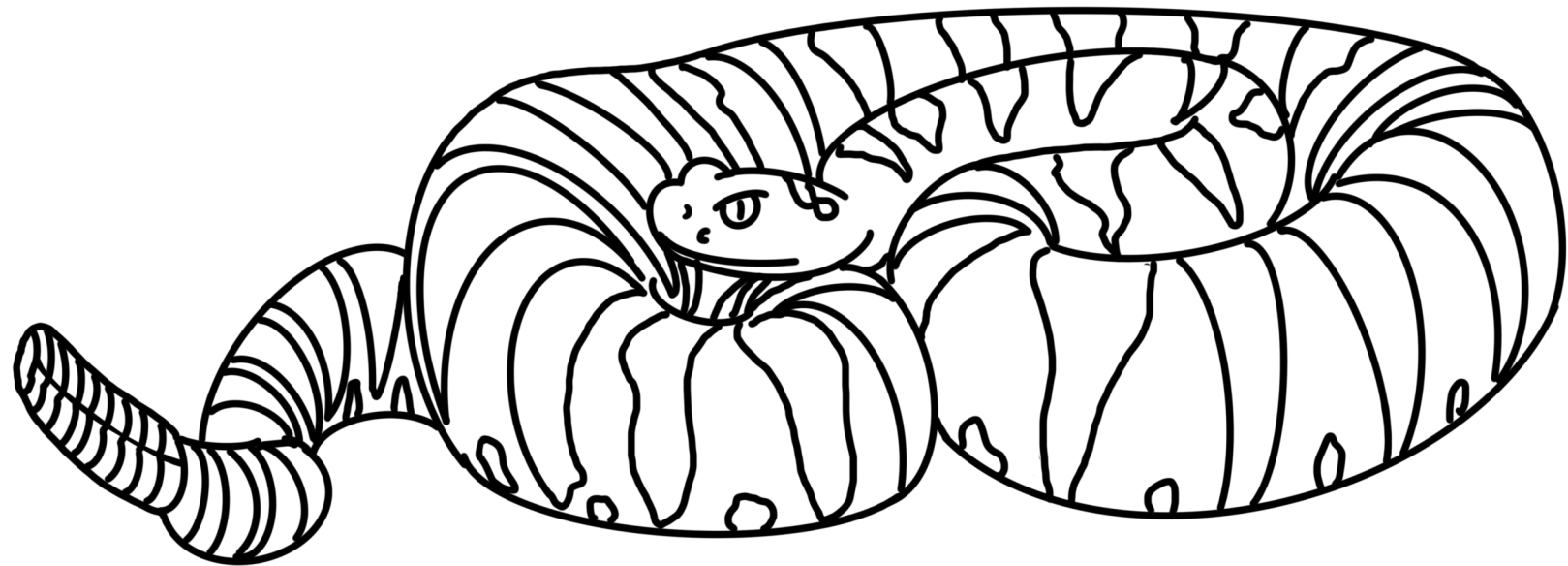
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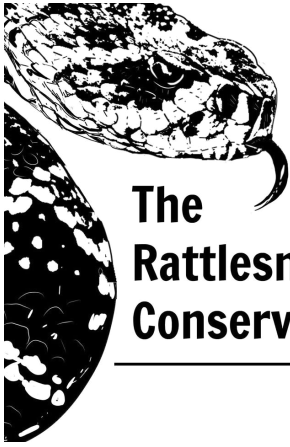
Tiger Rattlesnake

Crotalus tigris

The tiger rattlesnake is a medium sized rattlesnake with average adults reaching lengths of 24 inches. It is known for its notably small head—the smallest of any rattlesnake, and large rattle. These snakes can be found throughout the central, south-central, and extreme southeastern portions of the state in a variety of upland, rocky habitat like slopes, mountains, and foothills. They are occasionally found in the flatter desert and scrublands which border these habitats.

How to color: The tiger rattlesnake has a bluish gray to tan or pinkish tan colored body with a series of darker gray, olive, or brown speckled crossbands that resemble tiger stripes!





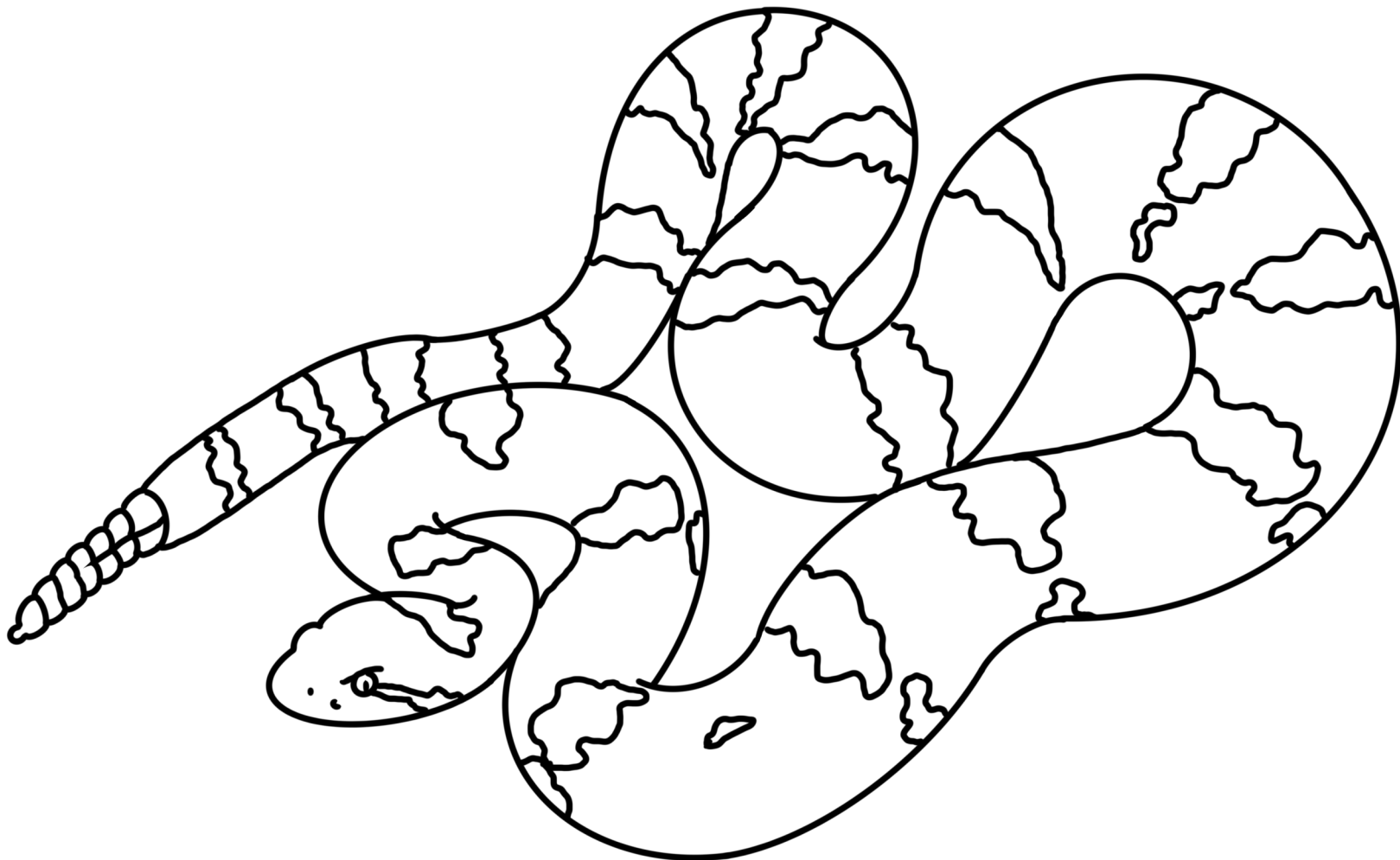
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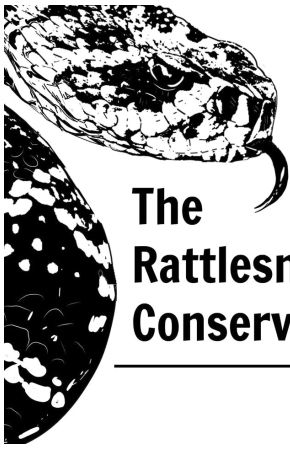
Banded Rock Rattlesnake

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 the southeastern portion 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.





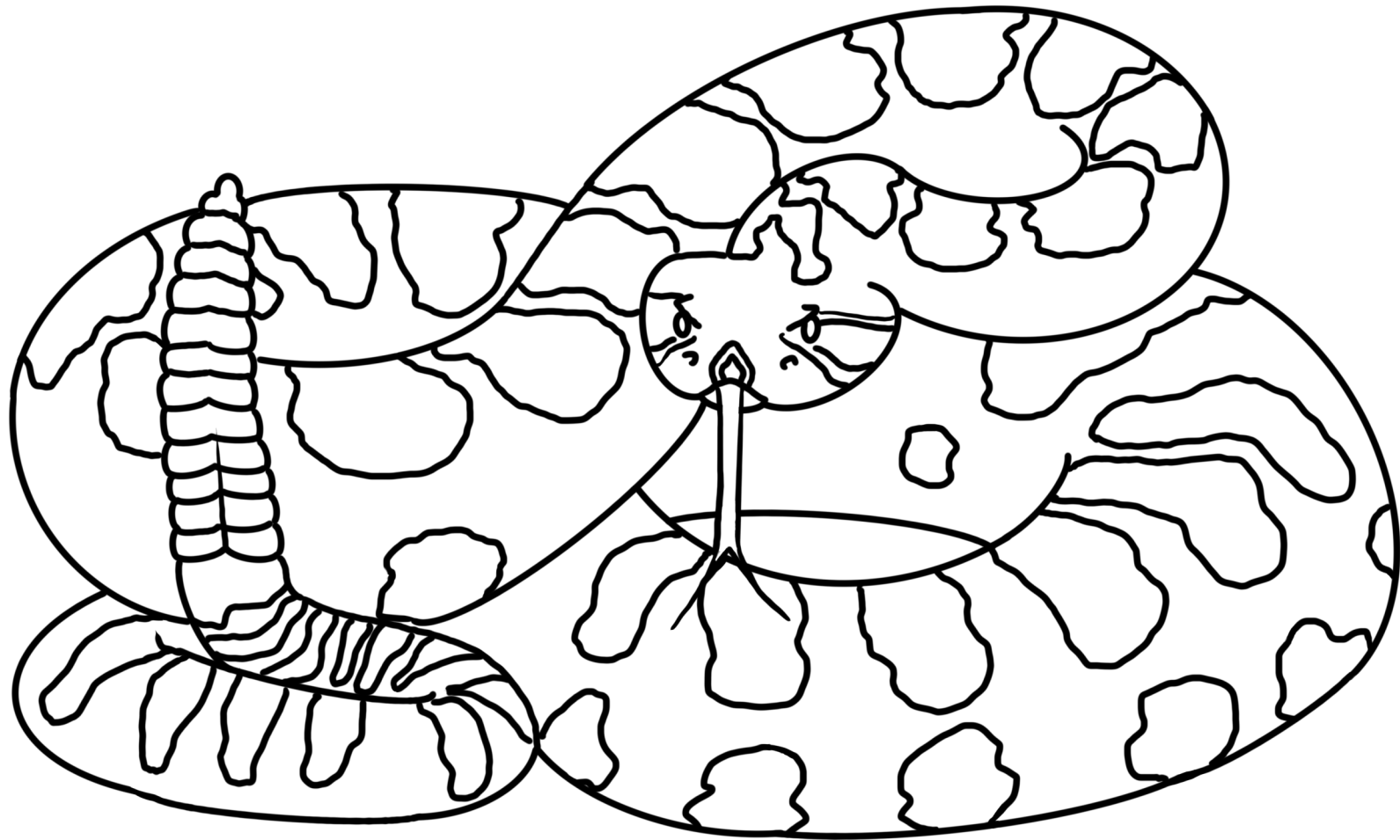
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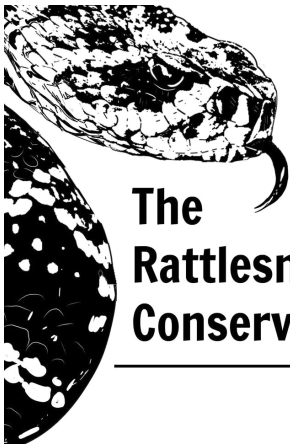
Prairie Rattlesnake

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 northeastern 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.





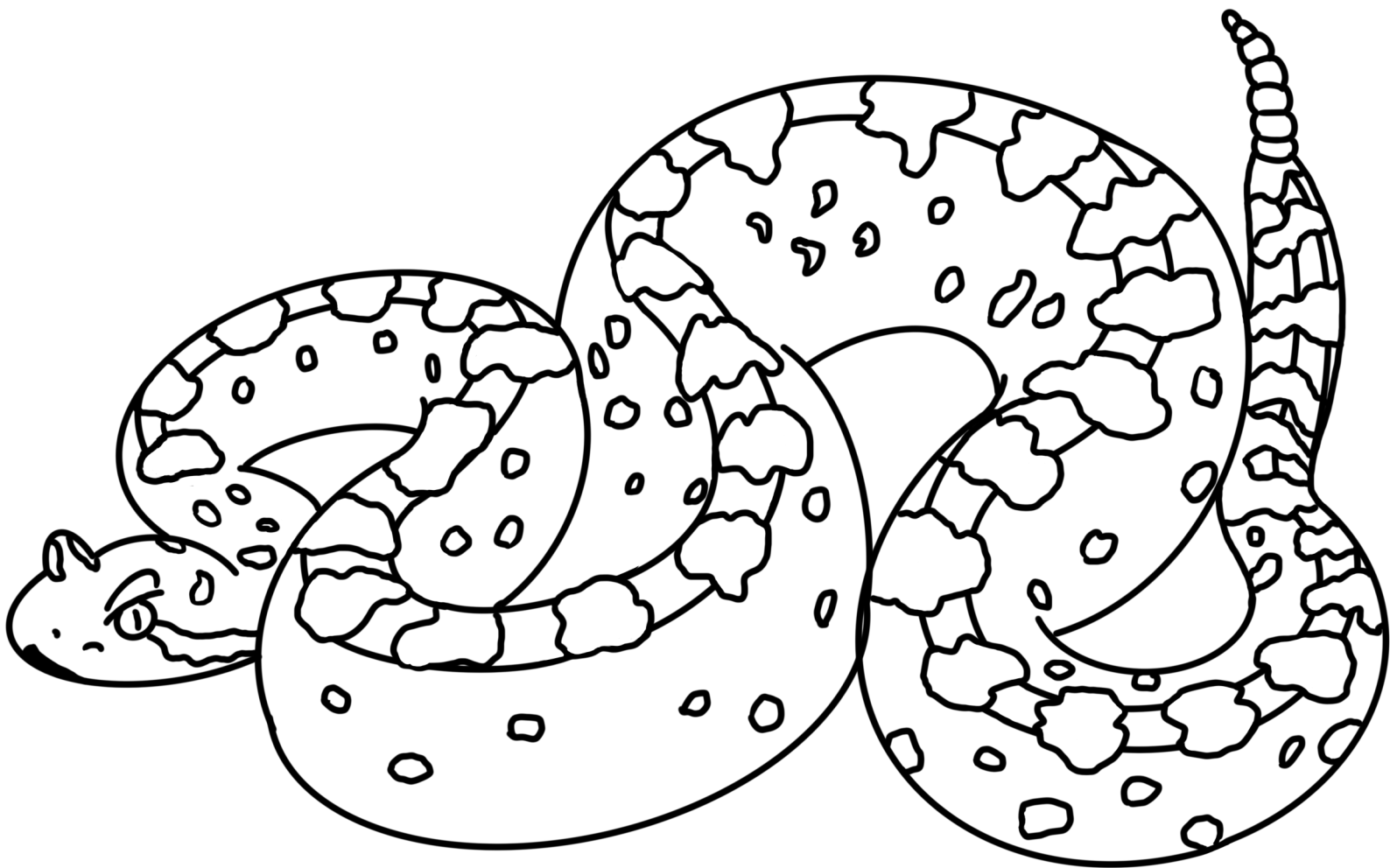
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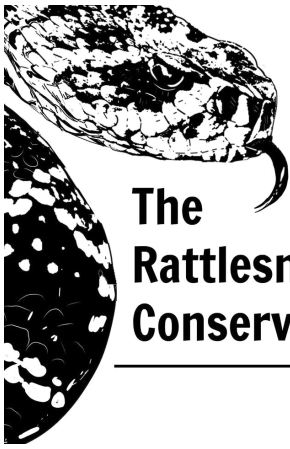
Sidewinder

Crotalus cerastes

The sidewinder is a small species of rattlesnake with adults typically not exceeding 25 inches in length. This snake has characteristic horns, or supraocular scales over its eyes giving it a distinct appearance! Its known for its sidewinding locomotion and can be found across the western portion of the state in dry, sandy, desert habitats.

How to color: The sidewinder is a light cream, grayish, or pinkish tan colored snake with brown to grayish brown darker colored blotches down its back. Between the blotches is a light, cream colored stripe. The sidewinder has a darker gray to grayish brown stripe through each eye and a series of dark rings at the tip of its tail.





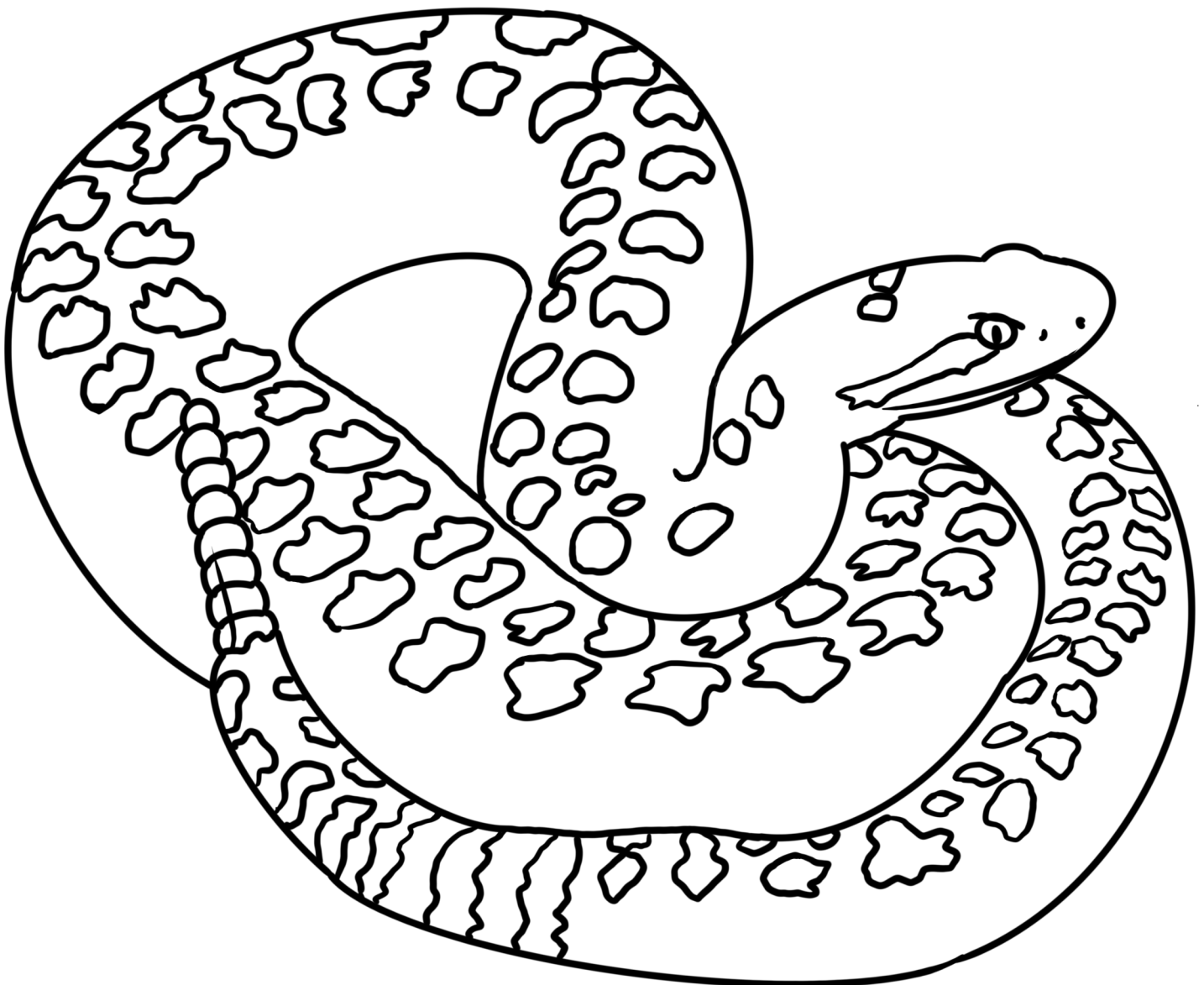
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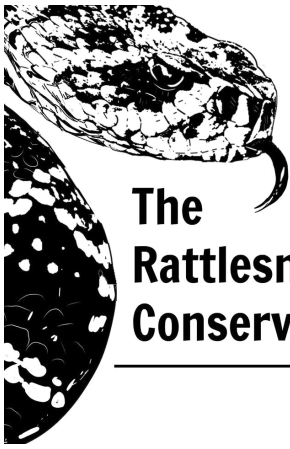
Twin-Spotted Rattlesnake

Crotalus pricei

The twin-spotted rattlesnake is a small species of rattlesnake with adults typically not exceeding 26 inches in length. This snake can be found in the southeast portion of the state and is the only rattlesnake species in the state with two rows of dark blotches running down the center of its back. The twin spotted rattlesnake can be found at high elevations in rocky areas of mountain forests.

How to color: The twin spotted rattlesnake is a brownish to blueish gray colored snake with two rows of dark brown to gray blotches down the center of its back that typically merge into one row near the tail, and a dark brown to gray stripe through the eye on each side of its face.





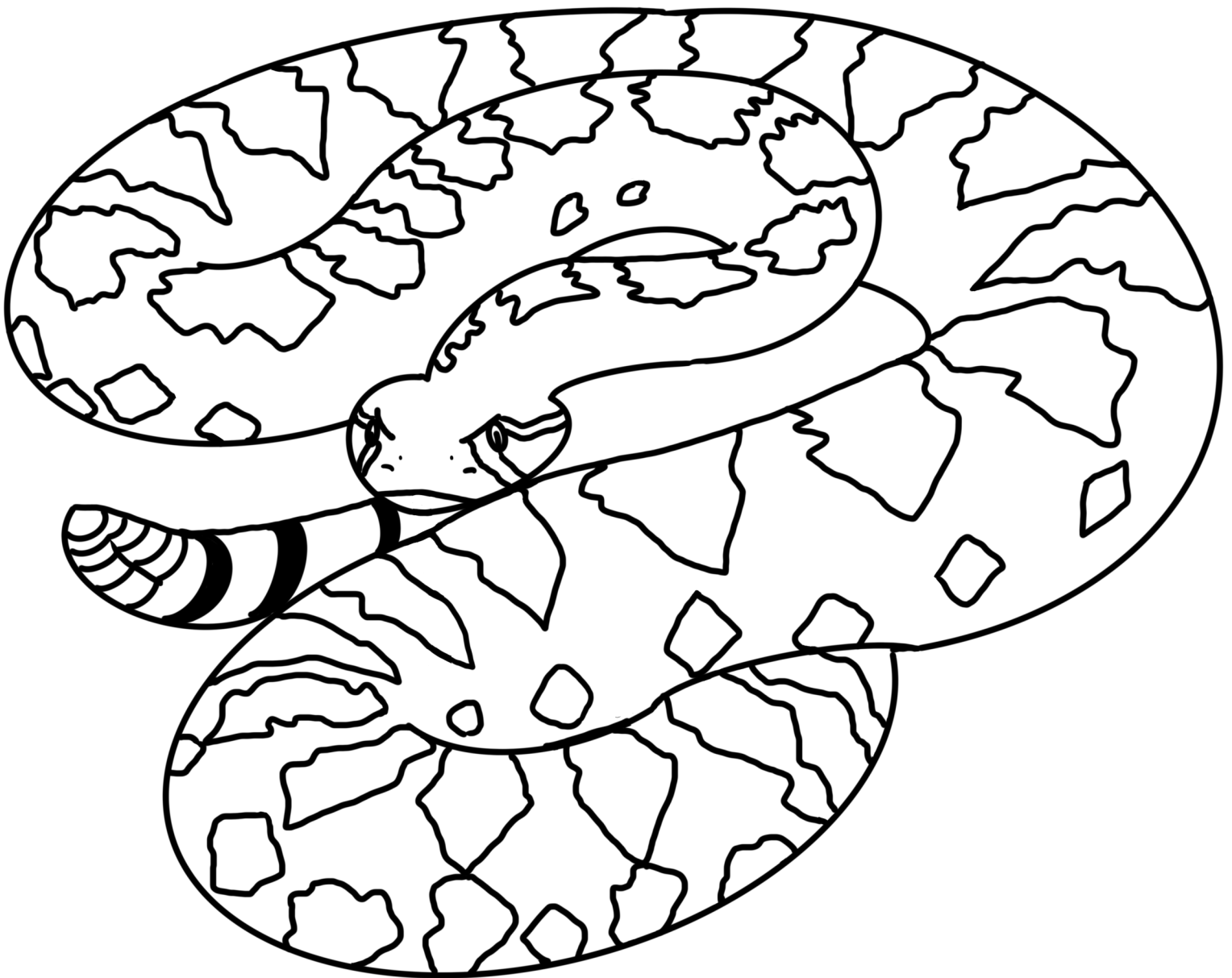
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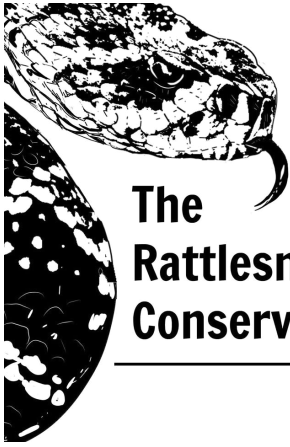
Mojave Rattlesnake

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 throughout the southern and 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.





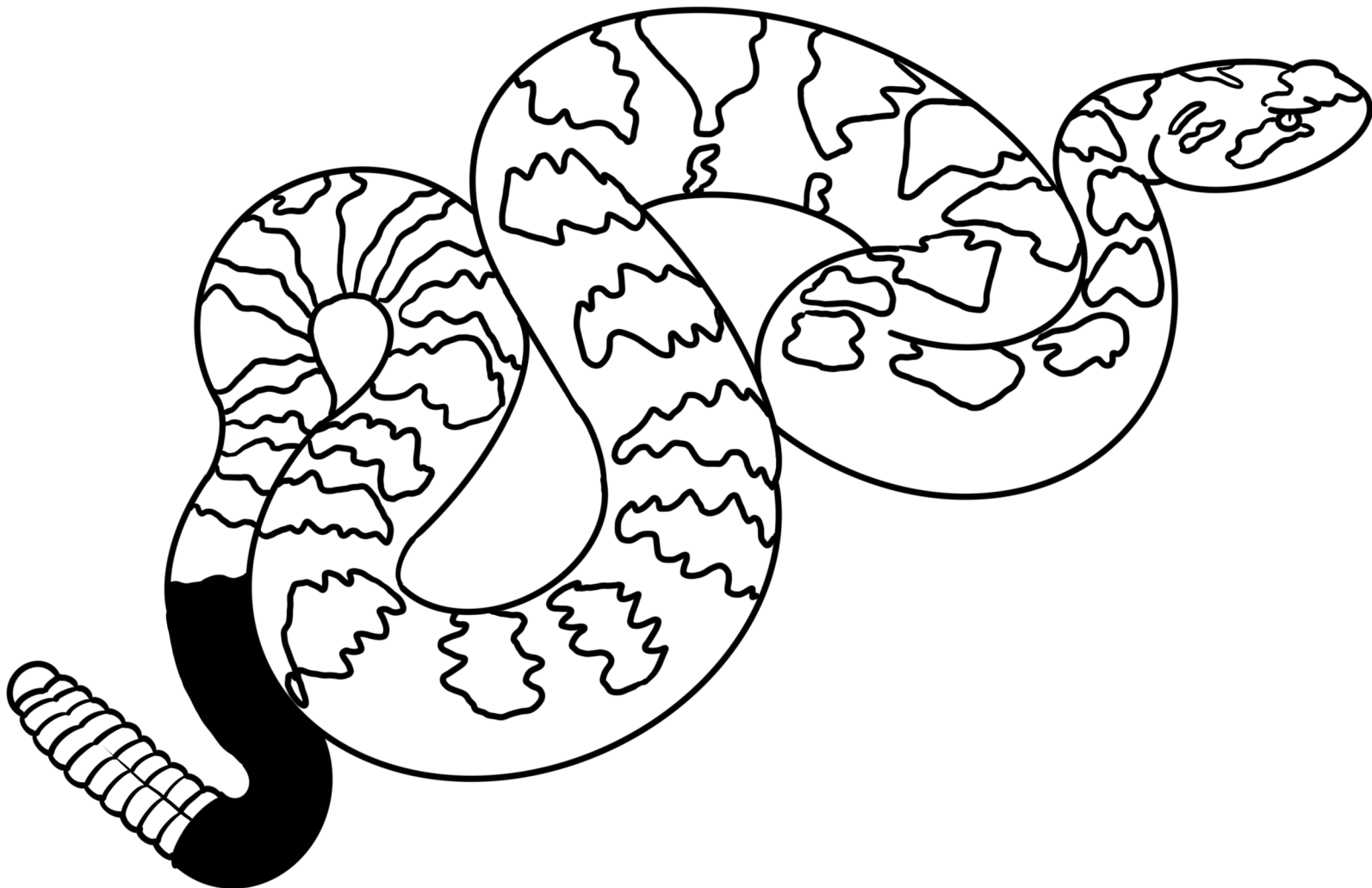
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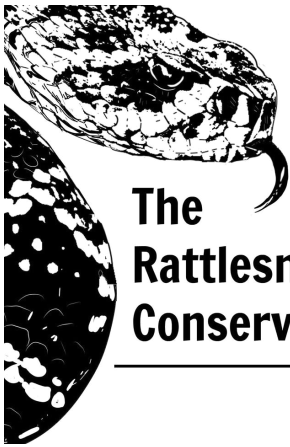
Black-tailed Rattlesnake

Crotalus molossus

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 southern 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.





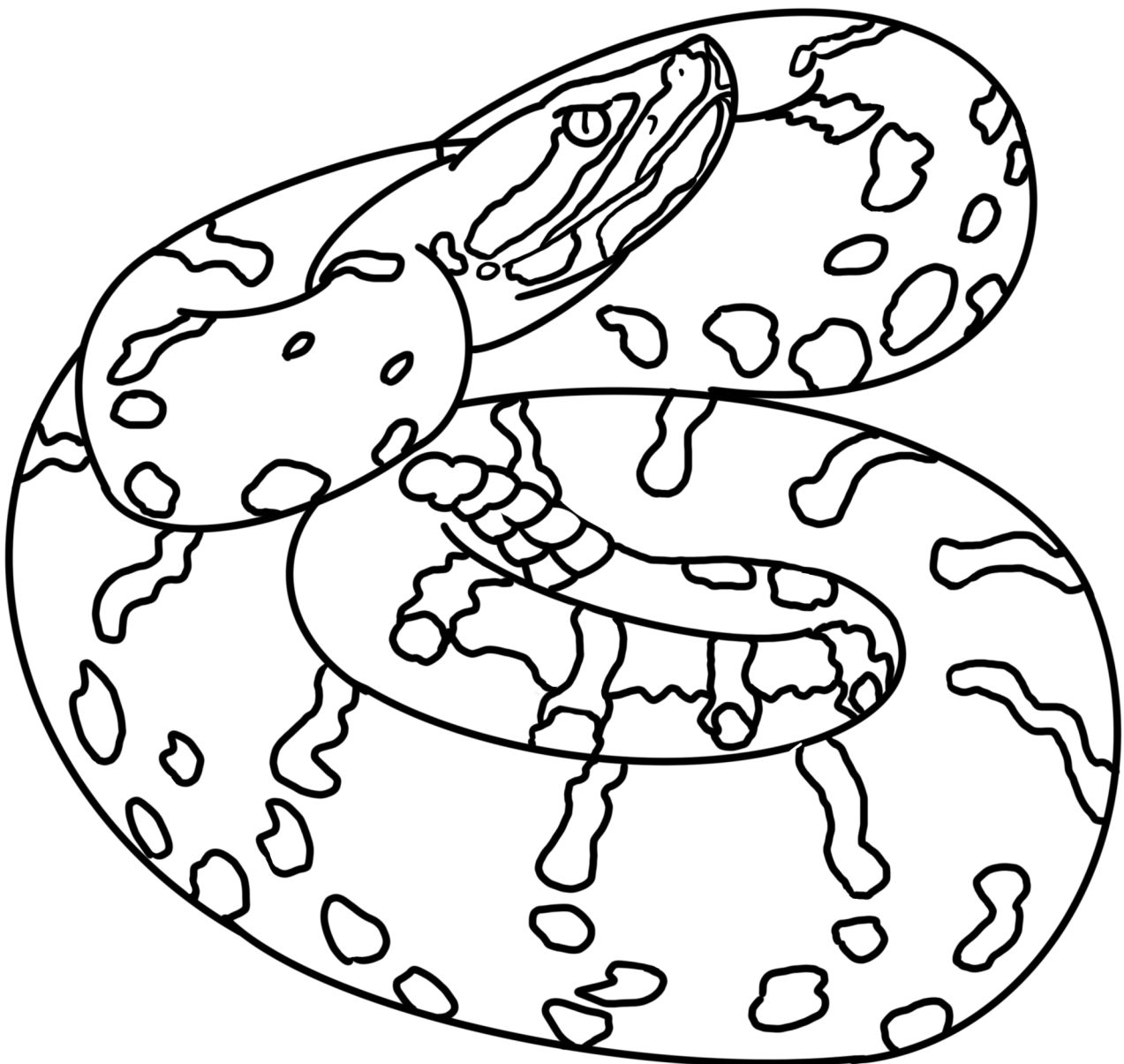
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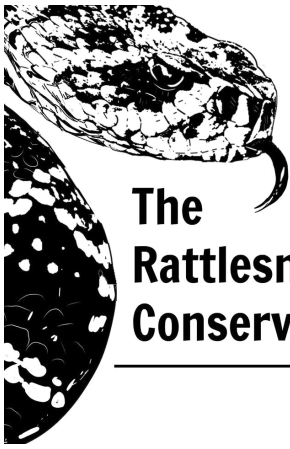
Ridge-nosed Rattlesnake

Crotalus willardi

The ridge-nosed rattlesnake is our state reptile! It is a relatively small snake with adults typically not exceeding 26 inches in length. This snake has a snout that ends in a distinctive upturned ridge, giving it its name! The ridge-nosed rattlesnake can be found in the southeastern portion of the state in mid to high elevation woodland habitat with abundant leaf litter.

How to color: The ridge-nosed rattlesnake is grayish tan to rust colored brown in color, with lighter cream or white colored contrasting lines on its face and chin. Its back features light colored crossbands that are darker at the edges.





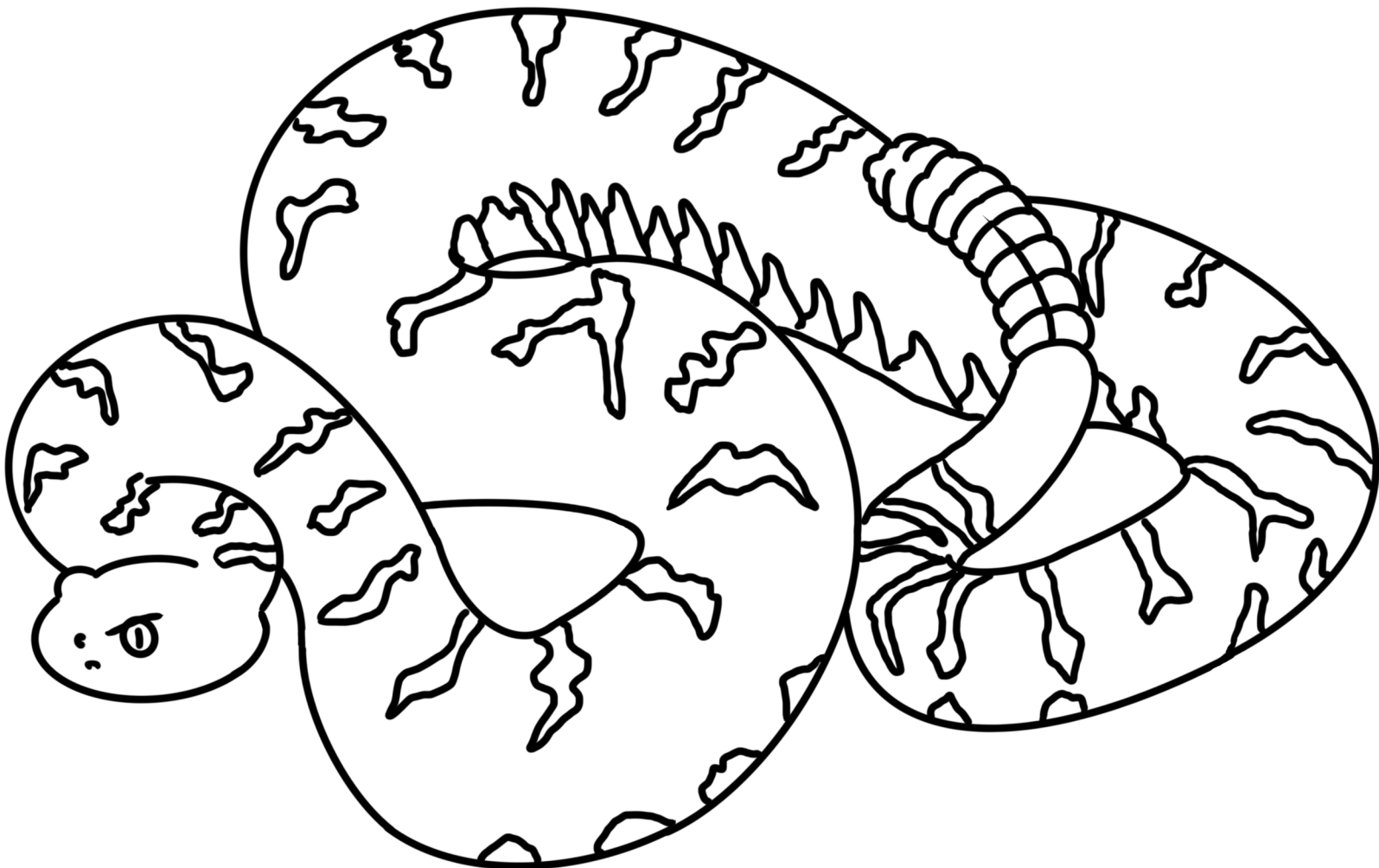
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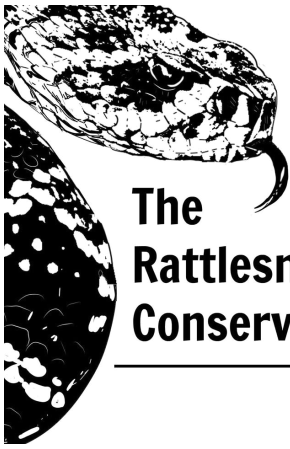
AZ Black Rattlesnake

Crotalus cerberus

The Arizona black rattlesnake is a moderately large rattlesnake with adults reaching lengths of up to 42 inches! This snake can be found in the central region of the state in a wide variety of mountainous and semi desert habitats including grasslands, woodlands, forests, and rocky slopes.

How to color: The Arizona black rattlesnake is a dark gray to black colored snake with brown to black blotches down its body that darken with age. Adults may appear solid black with thin, white to yellow crossbands while juveniles are considerably lighter in color.





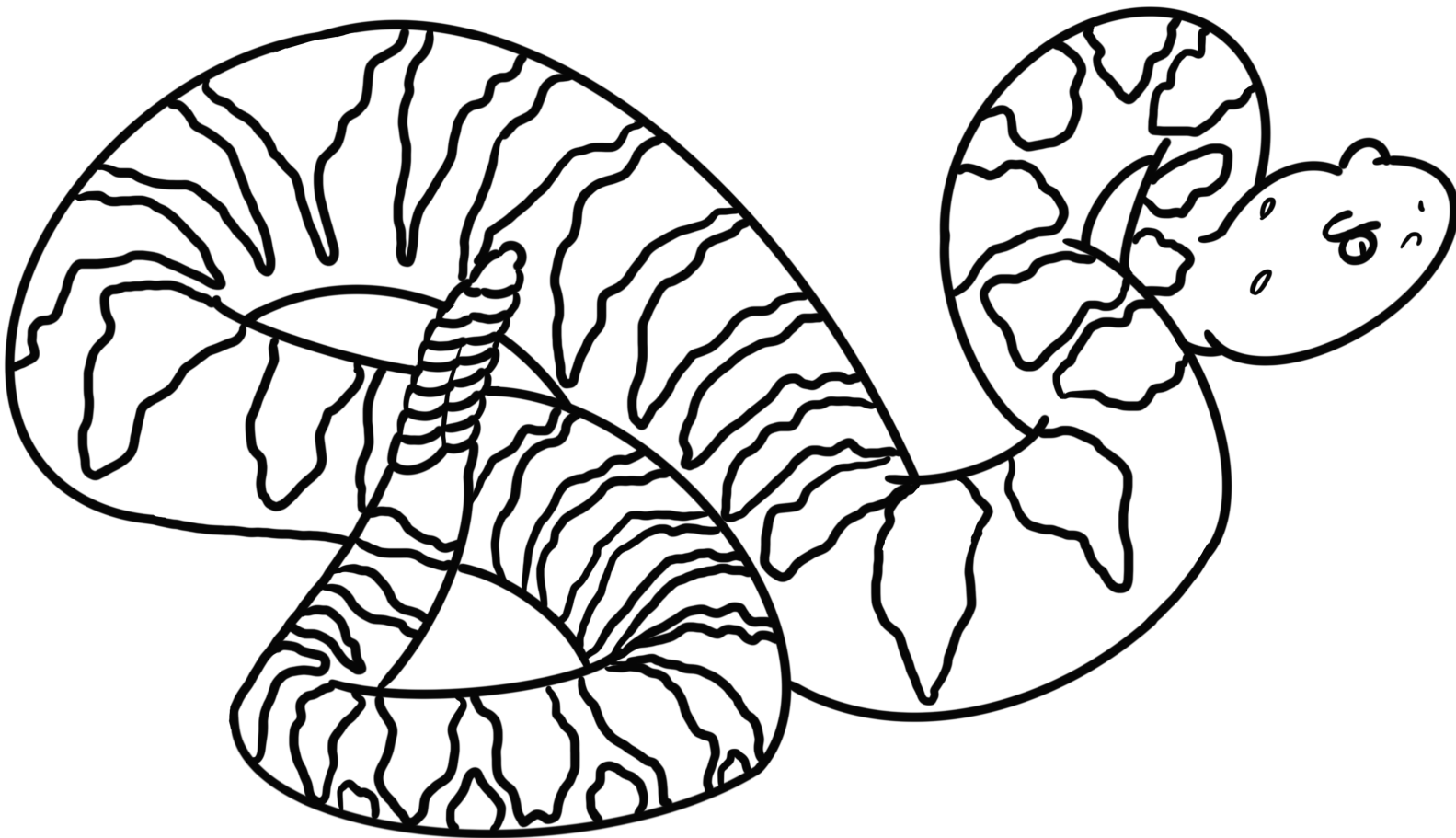
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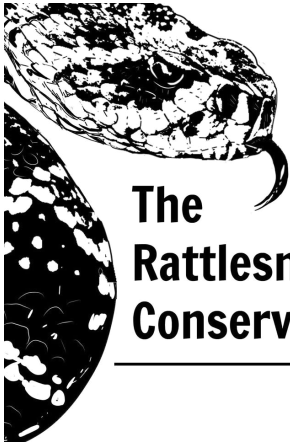
Southwestern Speckled Rattlesnake

Crotalus pyrrhus

The southwestern speckled rattlesnake is a medium to large rattlesnake with average adults in our area typically not exceeding 30 inches in length. This snake can be found in the western portion of the state in typically rocky habitats like canyons, slopes, hillsides, and desert mountain ranges. In our area, the southwestern speckled rattlesnake is most often confused with the tiger rattlesnake.

How to color: The southwestern speckled rattlesnake is extremely variable in coloration, with some individual colors related closely to the rocks in their area! This snake can be pale cream, rust, tan, pinkish peach, or gray to grayish blue in color. It's body is marked with darker colored speckles, blotches, and crossbands that often become darker and more pronounced at its tail.





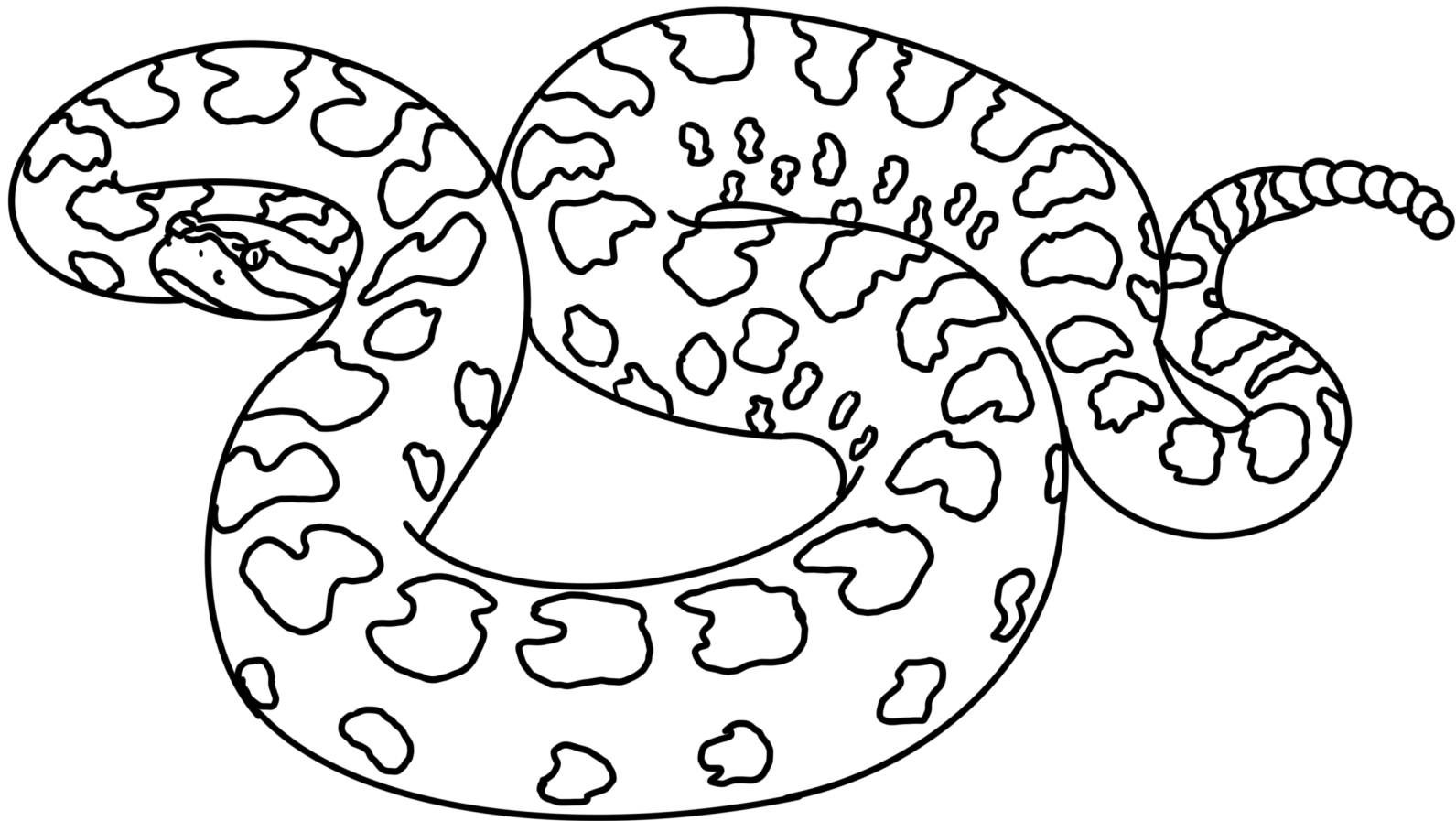
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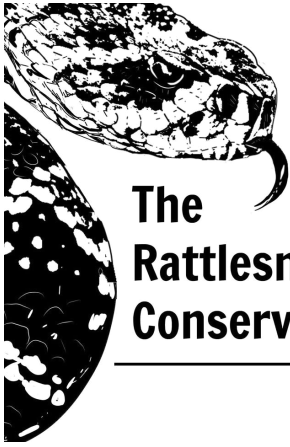
Western Massasauga

Sistrurus tergeminus

The desert massasauga is a small rattlesnake species with adults typically not exceeding 22 inches in length. This snake has a very small population in our state which is threatened by habitat loss, road mortality, and human persecution. The desert massasauga can only be found in a limited range of the southeastern region, typically in grassland habitat.

How to color: The desert 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!





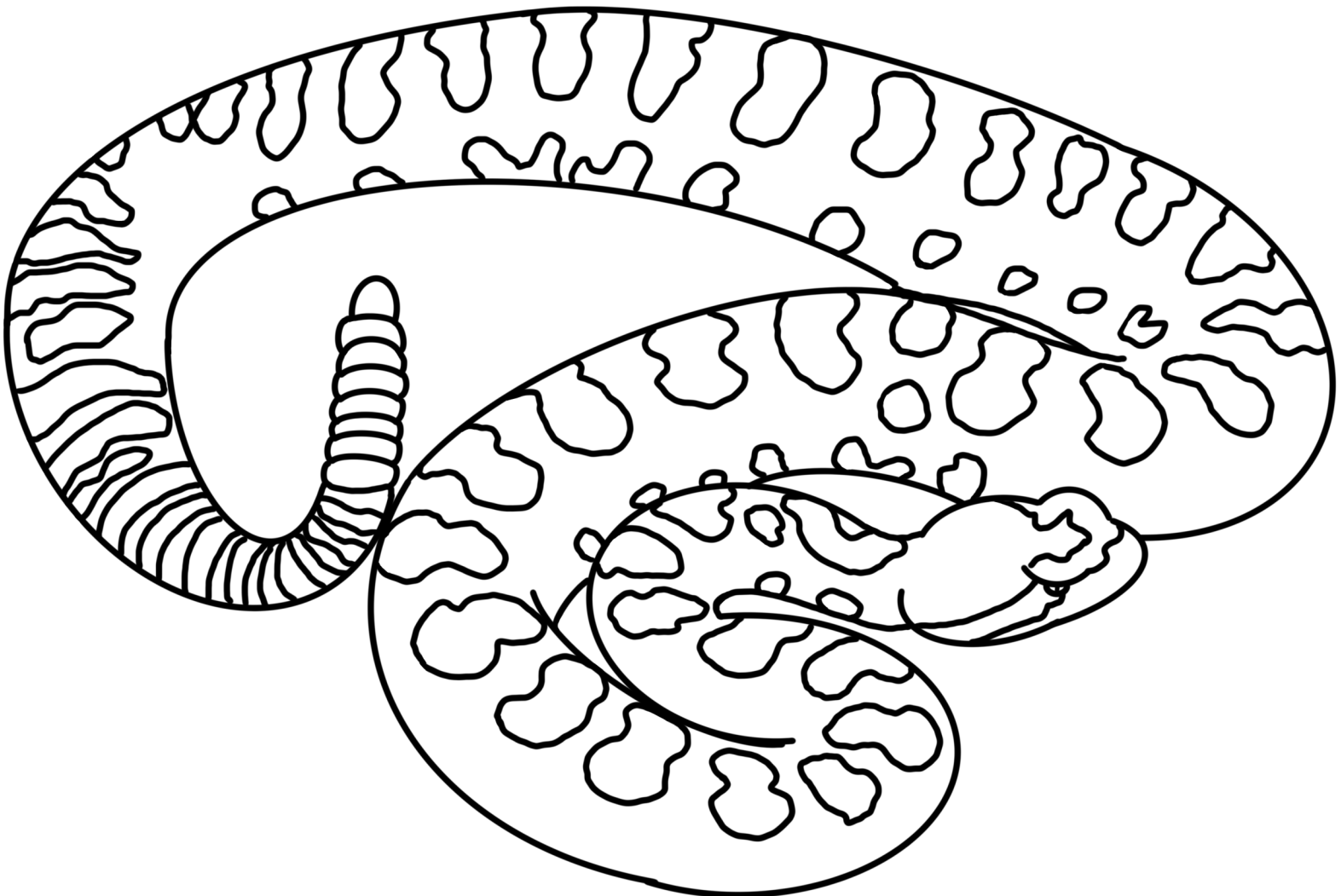
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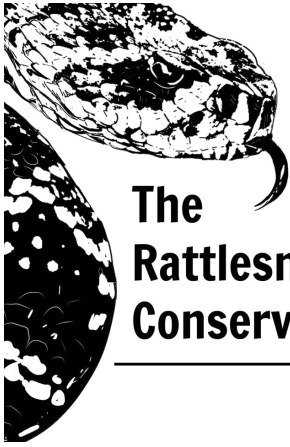
Midget Faded Rattlesnake

Crotalus oreganus concolor

The midget faded rattlesnake is one of three subspecies of the western rattlesnake found in our state. This subspecies is a small snake, with typical adults reaching between 16 to 26 inches in length. It ranges in a very limited portion of the northern region in our state, and can be found in high, desert habitats with abundant rocky outcrops and rugged canyons.

How to color: The midget faded rattlesnake is light tan to pinkish tan or gray in color with slightly darker blotches down the length of its back which typically fade with age. The face is marked with a muted, but slightly darker stripe through the eye on each side of the head.





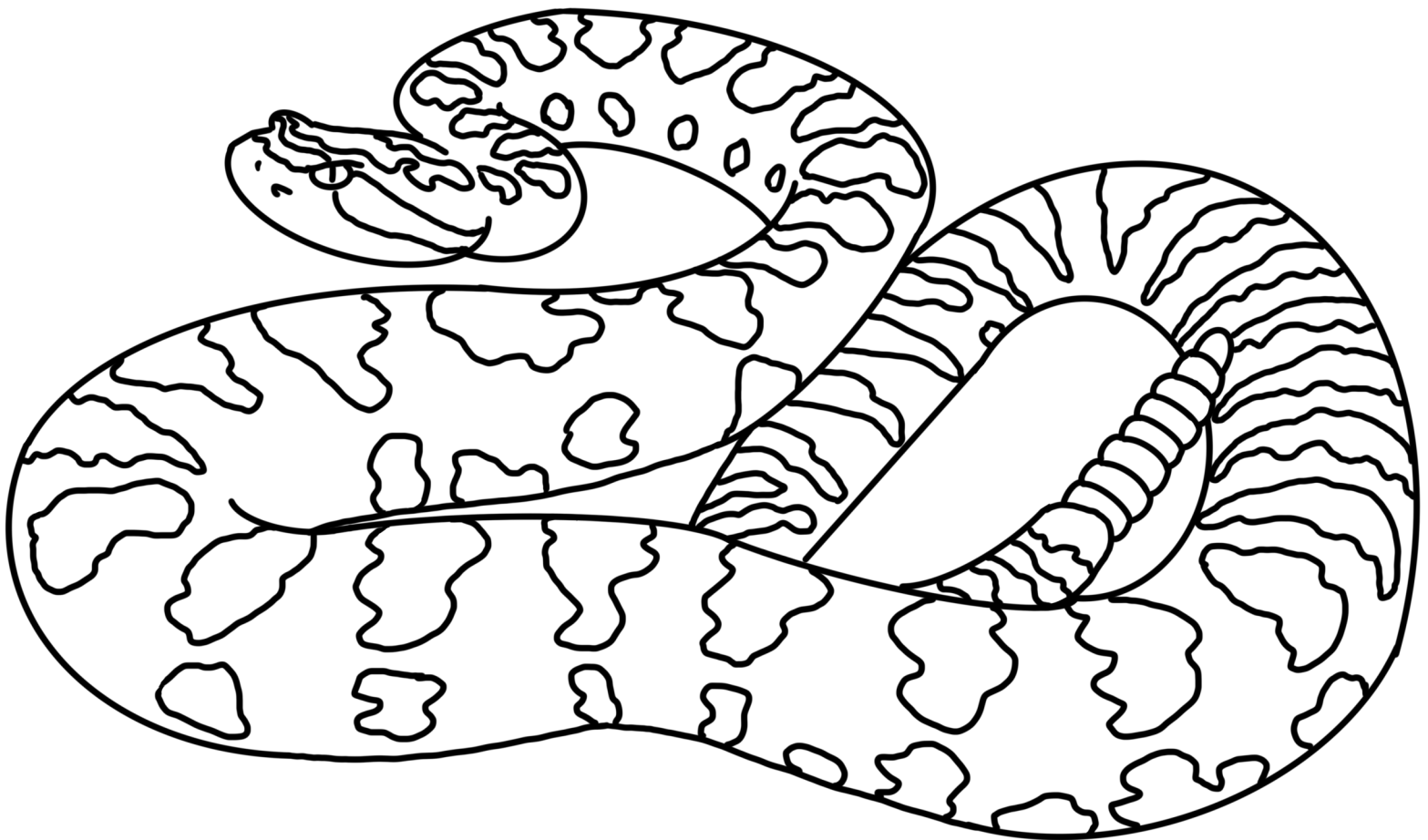
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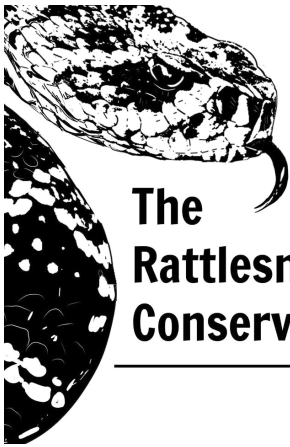
Great Basin Rattlesnake

Crotalus oreganus lutosus

The great basin rattlesnake is one of three subspecies of the western rattlesnake found in our state. This subspecies is the largest of three, with typical adults reaching between 30 to 54 inches in length. It ranges in a very limited portion of the extreme northwestern region in our state, and can be found in a variety of dry rocky habitat including hillsides, valleys, canyons, and open deserts.

How to color: The great basin rattlesnake can be highly variable in coloration. Individuals can be cream, yellowish tan, light brown, to pinkish gray in color with darker blotches down the center of its back that are typically outlined in a dark brown to brownish black color. There is a dark stripe through the eye which extends to the mouth on each side of its face.





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Grand Canyon Rattlesnake

Crotalus oreganus abyssus

The grand canyon rattlesnake is one of three subspecies of the western rattlesnake found in our state. This subspecies is moderate in size, with typical adults reaching between 24 to 40 inches in length. It ranges in a limited portion of the northwestern and north-central region in our state, and can be found in a wide variety of habitats including grasslands, desert scrub, cliff slopes, woodlands, and pine forests.

How to color: The grand canyon rattlesnake is a light tan, yellowish tan, or grayish brown snake. Juveniles feature distinct blotches that become crossbands near the tail and typically fade with age. Some adults have little to no visible markings.

