



January 25, 2011

TO: Sergeant Rick Sellars
Wildlife Resources Division
Region V Law Enforcement
1700 Radium Springs Road
Albany, GA 31705

Sergeant William Vickers
Wildlife Resources Division
Region VI Law Enforcement
360 Cedar St.
Metter, GA 30439

Evans County Sheriff Randall Tippins
P.O. Box 425
Claxton, GA 30417

Grady County Sheriff Harry C. Young
P.O. Box 690
Cairo, GA 39828

Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Wildlife Resources Division
Law Enforcement Section
2070 U.S. Hwy. 278, SE
Social Circle, GA 30025

Dear Sergeant Sellars, Sergeant Vickers, Sheriff Tippins, and Sheriff Young:

We are writing to ask that you enforce two Georgia wildlife laws concerning the Rattlesnake Roundups that take place annually in Whigham in January and in Claxton in March. Georgia Code § 27-2-13 states that it shall be unlawful for any person to keep, hold, or possess any wildlife in captivity for the purpose of display or exhibition to the public without first procuring a valid wildlife exhibition permit as provided in Code Section § 27-2-23. Georgia Code § 27-2-19 states that it shall be unlawful to import wildlife into the state of Georgia without a wildlife importation permit issued by the Department of Natural Resources.

We ask that, in advance of the events, you contact the organizers of the Claxton and Whigham roundups and advise them that without the proper permits, the display of rattlesnakes at the roundups may be an unlawful activity under Georgia law. The roundup organizers should also be advised to alert the rattlesnake hunters that it may be unlawful to capture snakes in other states and transport them into Georgia for the roundups without obtaining a permit. Should the roundups move forward without obtaining permits, we ask that you attend the roundups and take appropriate law enforcement measures.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Tierra R. Curry, M.S.
Conservation Biologist
Center for Biological Diversity
PO Box 1178
Flagstaff, AZ 86002

cont. . . .

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