

## Group urges rattlesnake protection



An environmental group has filed notice of intent to sue the federal government... (Trisha Shears )

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Few species inspire more hatred and fear than the eastern diamondback rattlesnake. But the environmental group Center for Biological Diversity has come to its defense, filing a notice of intent to sue the federal government to force its protection under the Endangered Species Act.

The rattlesnake, which can still be found in South Florida, has lost 98 percent of its pine forest habitat in the southeastern United States. They're also killed for their meat and skin, facing particular persecution through "rattlesnake roundups" in Alabama and Georgia.