

May 2010

Recommendation to Wildlife Board: “release of captured snakes”

Short distance translocation: defined as transport of animal to suitable area within or near its normal or estimated home range (30-125 acres).

- Rattlesnakes exhibit strong site fidelity to a specific hibernaculum (over winter habitat) and foraging areas
- May return to snake-human conflict area after translocation
- Studies suggest 2-50% of snakes return to conflict area
- Most translocated snakes that return to conflict area (because it is within their home range) remain undetected
- 20 days \pm 9 days to return to home range

Long distance translocation is not recommended. Long distance translocation is defined as transport of an animal outside of its normal or estimated home range.

- altered movement patterns
- atypical behavior
- increased encounters with humans
- increased mortality rates

RECOMMENDATION:

- Translocate nuisance snakes <1 km (0.62 mile or 1093 yards) to suitable habitat
- Mark rattles with spray paint (different color each year) to identify snake that has been translocated
- **REPEAT OFFENDER:** If snake returns and causes additional conflict, humanely euthanize following DWR Wildlife Euthanasia Policy (W5WLD-11).

EDUCATE THE PUBLIC

Literature

J.R. Brown, C.A. Bishop and R. J. Brooks. 2007. Effectiveness of short-distance translocation and its effects on Western Rattlesnakes. Management and Conservation Article. DOI: 10.2193/2007-558.

E.M. Nowak and C. van Riper III. 1999. Effects and effectiveness of rattlesnake relocation at Montezuma National Monument. Technical report series, USGSFRESC/COPL/1999/17, USGS Forest and Rangeland Ecosystem Science Center, Flagstaff, Arizona.

E. M. Nowak, T. Hare, and J. McNally. 2002. Management of “nuisance” vipers: effects of translocation on Western diamond-backed rattlesnakes (*Crotalus atrox*). *IN: Biology of the Vipers*, pages 533-560. Eagle Mountain Publishing, LC.

Southwest Partnership in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation. (2009). *Living with venomous reptiles in the Southwest* Brochure. Tucson, AZ: Designer: Clifford Casey.

Wildlife Board accepted and approved May 2010