



Operational Encounter Plans for the Bog Turtle and Timber Rattlesnake

NY Solar 1001, LLC

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Key Traits of the Bog Turtle*

Scientific Name

Glyptemys muhlenbergii

Bright yellow or orange blotch on each side of its head and neck

Dark body with an orange-red wash on the inside of the legs on some individuals

Endangered in NY

Threatened at Federal level, but listed in multiple states

Semi-aquatic, wet meadows or boggy areas

Often found basking and nesting in sunny areas within wetlands or at the edges

NY's smallest turtle

Max length: 4.5 in

Domed and slightly rectangular carapace

Found in NY

Located in small scattered colonies with only slightly more than half supporting surviving populations.



* New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, <https://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/7166.html>

Sources:
Top: <https://reptilesmagazine.com/bogturtleinformation>
Left: https://en.wikipedia.org/bog_turtle
Right: <https://nrdc.org/>

What to do if a Bog Turtle is encountered

- Stop work in the area of the turtle immediately.
- Do not touch or move.
- Do not hurt or injure.
- Either wait until the turtle has moved out of the area or contact certified contractor to move turtle.
- All fences must be set at least 8-inches above ground.
- All mowing/ vegetation clearing must be set at a minimum above 8 inches above ground.
- Prior to ground disturbance area must be walked over to check for Bog Turtle.
- Report any encounters to Owner who will report to NYS DEC within 24 hours.
- If turtle is injured, call contractor from list at <https://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/83977.html>

* New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, <https://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/7166.html>



Sources:

Top: <https://www.turtleconservancy.org/news/2019/5/species-highlight>

Bottom: [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Bog_turtle_\(18553965520\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Bog_turtle_(18553965520).jpg)

Key Traits of the Timber Rattler*

Scientific Name

Crotalus horridus

Rattle is most useful identification characteristic

Coloration is extremely variable but is broken down into two phases: light and dark. Light phase is also referred to as yellow phase.

Endangered in NY

Listed as Threatened at State level

Listed in multiple states

Forests, rocky outcroppings

Forages in forests; open rocky areas used for basking, shedding, and birthing

Dens often found among rock fissures, crevices, ledges

NY's largest venomous snake

Measuring 3 to 4 feet or more in length

Record length: 5 feet

Active Season from April through mid-October

Migratory species; can travel up to 5 miles from den



Dark phase



Light or yellow phase



Light or yellow phase

* New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, <https://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/7147.html>

Sources:
Top: <https://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/7147.html>
Middle: <https://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/7147.html>
Bottom: <https://guides.nynhp.org/timber-rattlesnake/>

What to do if a Timber Rattlesnake is encountered

- Stop work in the area of the snake immediately. Stay at least 6 feet away.
- Do not touch, move, injure or hurt.
- Not aggressive unless provoked.
- Either wait until the snake has moved out of the area or contact certified contractor to move snake.
- All fences must be set at least 8-inches above ground.
- All mowing/ vegetation clearing must be set at a minimum above 8 inches above ground.
- Prior to ground disturbance area must be walked over to check for timber rattlesnake.
- Report any encounters to Owner who will report to NYS DEC within 24 hours.
- If snake is injured, call contractor from list at <https://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/83977.html>

* New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, <https://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/7166.html>



Sources:
Top: <https://www.adirondackexplorer.org/stories/timber-rattlesnake-shy-threatened-essential>
Bottom left: https://www.syracuse.com/outdoors/2018/06/rattled_upstate_ny_car_owner_calls_dec_after_finding_timber_rattlesnake_on_engin.html
Bottom right: <https://www.adirondackalmanack.com/2020/08/trapped-timber-rattlesnake-surprises-vacationers.html>



Thank you

