**Rare Animals of Louisiana**

**Pine Woods Snake**  
*Rhadinaea flavilata*

**Rarity Rank:** S1/G4

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**Identification:**
- A slender snake
- Back golden brown to reddish brown
- Belly white, yellow or yellow green
- Head is dark and often with a narrow, dark stripe through the eye
- Lips are white or yellow
- Adults from 10 to 13 inches long and young from 5.5 to 6.5 inches at hatching

**Habitat:**
Can be found in or under logs, leaves, or soils in coastal pine flatwoods and bottomland hardwood forests

**Food habits:**
- Frogs, lizard, small salamanders, and small snakes
- Has slightly venomous saliva that it uses to capture food
- Upon capturing food, the snake partially swallows the prey so that it can use the fangs in the back of its mouth to inject a slightly venomous saliva and remains still until the prey item ceases to move

**Range:**
Found along the Atlantic and Gulf coast from North Carolina to Louisiana

**Reproduction:**
- Pairs mate in the late winter/ early spring
- Females lay clutches of 2 to 4, yellowish-white, leathery eggs in rotting logs between June and August
- Young hatch in September

**Threats:**
- Land use conversion and habitat destruction
- Fire suppression

Range based on occurrences in Natural Heritage database
Rare Animals of Louisiana

Beneficial Management Practices:
- Prevent conversion of existing natural forests to other land uses
- Use of growing season prescribed fire (April-June) at a frequency of every 5 to 10 years
- No logging during wet periods when the soil is saturated
- No bedding or other soil disturbance that may alter natural water flow patterns
- Prohibit off-road vehicle use, or restrict use to pre-existing trails
- Remove any invasive exotic plant species with use of spot herbicides or mechanical means

LA River Basins:
- Pearl, Pontchartrain

References:

