

**FLAT-TAILED HORNED LIZARD**  
*(Phrynosoma mcallii)*

**STATUS:** No Endangered Species Act protection; several Conservation Agreements evaluated by the Flat-tailed Horned Lizard Interagency Coordinating Committee.

**SPECIES DESCRIPTION:** The flat-tailed horned lizard has the typical flattened body shape of horned lizards. It is distinguished from other species in its genus by its dark vertebral stripe, lack of external ear openings, long, broad and flattened tail, and comparatively long spines on the head. In addition, the species has two rows of fringed scales on each side of the body. The species ranges in color from pale gray to light rust brown dorsally, and white or cream (unspotted) ventrally with a prominent umbilical scar. Maximum adult body length (excluding the tail) is approximately 3.2 inches (84 millimeters).

**HABITAT:** Occurs entirely within the Lower Colorado River Valley Subdivision of Sonoran Desert Scrub. This is the largest and most arid subdivision of the Sonoran Desert. The species is most often associated with the creosote-white bursage series of the desertscrub, and in Arizona is often abundant in sandy flats where galleta grass is common. In Arizona and much of its range in California, the flat-tailed horned lizard habitat is associated with fine silica sands deposited by the Colorado River. The lizard is usually found below 750 feet (230 meters) in elevation.

**RANGE: Historical:** Includes portions of southeastern California (southwestern Imperial County, eastern San Diego County, and central Riverside County) and southwestern Arizona (southwestern Yuma County) in the U.S. and northeastern Baja California and northwestern Sonora in Mexico.

**Current:** Limited to four geographically described "populations" (76 FR 14210): (1) The Coachella Valley Population, including those individuals northwest of the Salton Sea, California; (2) The Western Population, including those individuals in the areas west of the Salton Sea and the Imperial Valley, California, and west of the Mexicali Valley, Baja California, Mexico; (3) The Eastern Population, including those individuals in the areas east of the Salton Sea and the Imperial Valley but west of the Colorado River; and (4) The Southeastern Population, including those individuals in the areas east of the Colorado River, extending from Yuma south into Mexico and east to the Gulf of California.

**REASONS FOR DECLINE/VULNERABILITY:** Vulnerable due to habitat loss and degradation, and direct mortality due to vehicular use on and off-road.

**LAND MANAGEMENT/OWNERSHIP:** Lands within the range of the flat-tailed horned lizard in Arizona include Federal lands administered by the Marine Corps Air Station at Yuma, the Bureau of Land Management, and the Bureau of Reclamation; State of Arizona lands; and private lands.

**NOTES:** Proposed for listing as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act on November 29, 1993 (58 FR 62624). We withdrew our proposed rule on March 15, 2011 (76 FR 14210). For additional information, please visit our website: <http://www.fws.gov/southwest/es/arizona/Flat.htm>.

Listed as a threatened species in Mexico. Collection of flat-tailed horned lizards is prohibited in both Arizona and California, except by special permit.