



U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Dunes Sagebrush Lizard (Sand Dune Lizard)

Sceloporus arenicolus



Photo by Michael T. Hill

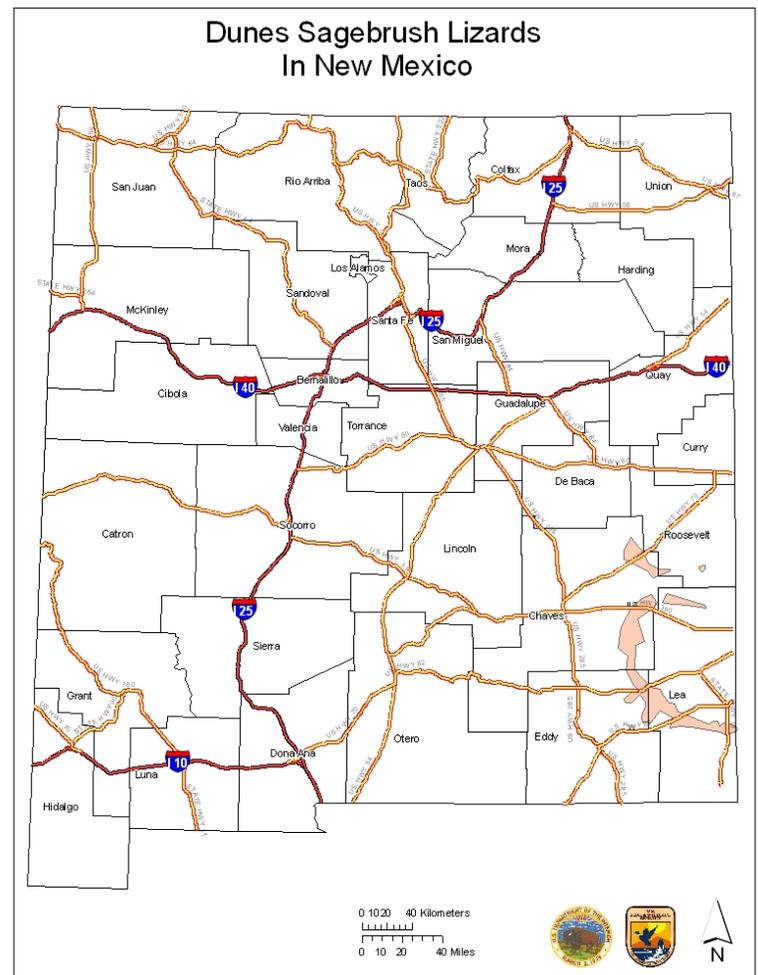
The Dunes Sagebrush Lizard, often called Sand Dune Lizard, is a rare species found only in the active and semi-stable shinnery oak dunes of southeastern New Mexico and adjacent Texas. In New Mexico the Dunes Sagebrush Lizard is found only in 655 square miles in Mescalero Sands.

The species is a small light brown spiny lizard with only stripes on the body. Dunes sagebrush lizards are active between April and October in the large dunes and blowouts.

The Dunes Sagebrush Lizard is listed as Endangered by the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, and has been a candidate species for listing under the Endangered Species Act by the US Fish and Wildlife Service since 2001.

Threats to the lizard include habitat removal, fragmentation and degradation as a result of oil and gas development and shinnery oak removal.

The Candidate Conservation Agreement and Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances may provide conservation for the lizard and its habitat in New Mexico. Landowners and industry will be able to enroll properties and leases under the program and apply conservation measures to the property that will benefit the species.





Shinnery Oak Dune Habitat where Dunes Sagebrush Lizard would Be expected in Lea, Eddy, Roosevelt and Chaves counties, New Mexico..

Conservation Measures for the Dunes Sagebrush Lizard

- ❖ Allow no surface occupancy within 200 meters of areas designated as occupied or suitable, unoccupied dune complexes or within delineated shinnery oak corridors. These complexes will be determined by FWS, BLM, and NMDGF biologists or their designee within the known geographic range of the sand dune lizard. These areas will be determined at a landscape scale rather than a dune-by-dune scale and will also delineate corridors for movement between occupied and suitable dune complexes.
- ❖ Remove caliche pads and roads on legacy wells where there is no responsible party.
- ❖ Route and construct new roads, buried pipelines, and power lines outside of occupied and suitable shinnery dune complexes as delineated by FWS and BLM.
- ❖ Limit seismic exploration to areas outside of occupied and suitable shinnery dune complexes as delineated by the FWS and BLM.
- ❖ Establish Plans of Development for enrolled properties.
- ❖ Submit a predetermined schedule for pipeline and facility maintenance to ensure proper functioning equipment in sensitive habitats to avoid potential accidental pollution events.
- ❖ Prohibit tebuthiuron spraying within 500 m of suitable and occupied habitat (dune complexes) or within corridors that connect dune complexes that are within 2000 m from each other.
- ❖ Prohibit OHV traffic within occupied or suitable dune complexes by signing and closing roads.
- ❖ Remove brush (**not** shinnery oak) that invades into the habitat preferred by sand dune lizards.

