

USACE Natural Resource Management

Reptiles & Amphibians



Blunt-nosed Leopard Lizard

FAST FACTS

REASONS FOR LISTING STATUS: It was first noticed in 1954 that agricultural conversion was causing the extirpation of the blunt-nose lizard. Eventually populations dwindled to the point that the lizard was listed Endangered in 1967 by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Today, habitat destruction and fragmentation continue to have negative impacts on this species. Insecticides may indirectly harm the blunt-nosed lizard by reducing prey populations. Fumigants used to control ground squirrels may harm lizards as the lizards often inhabit squirrel burrows. (USFWS)

MANAGEMENT AND PROTECTION: In addition to listing this species under the ESA in 1967, the USFWS also included the blunt-nosed leopard lizard in the 1998 document titled Recovery Plan for Upland Species of the San Joaquin Valley, California.

Conservation efforts have included habitat and population surveys, studies of population demography, land acquisition, and the development of management plans for public lands. Protection of habitat in key portions of the lizard's range is considered one of the most important factors in recovery of the species. (USFWS)

HABITAT NEEDS: This lizard can be found in canyon floors, semiarid grasslands, large washes, alkali flats, arroyos, and low foothills of the San Joaquin Valley. (NatureServe)

- Though sometimes found on hardpan, occupied habitat most often has sandy, gravelly, or loamy substrate.
- Common in areas with abundant rodent burrows as burrows are used for shelter from predators and temperature extremes. Colder months are spent underground in a state of dormancy. (USFWS)
- The species is rare or absent from areas with tall grass or dense vegetation and cannot survive on cultivated land. However, the blunt-nosed leopard lizard may use the edges of agricultural fields or adjacent suitable habitat. (NatureServe)

Description: This lizard grows as large as 4.7 inches in length, excluding tail. The lizard has a long, regenerative tail and powerful hind limbs. The snout is short and blunt. This species is generally darker than other leopard lizards, but exhibits a wide range of variations in color and pattern on their backs. There are rows of dark spots alternating with cream colored or yellow bands on their back. The underbelly is always white. (USFWS)

Photos: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service & Bureau of Land Management

Natural Resource Management (NRM)

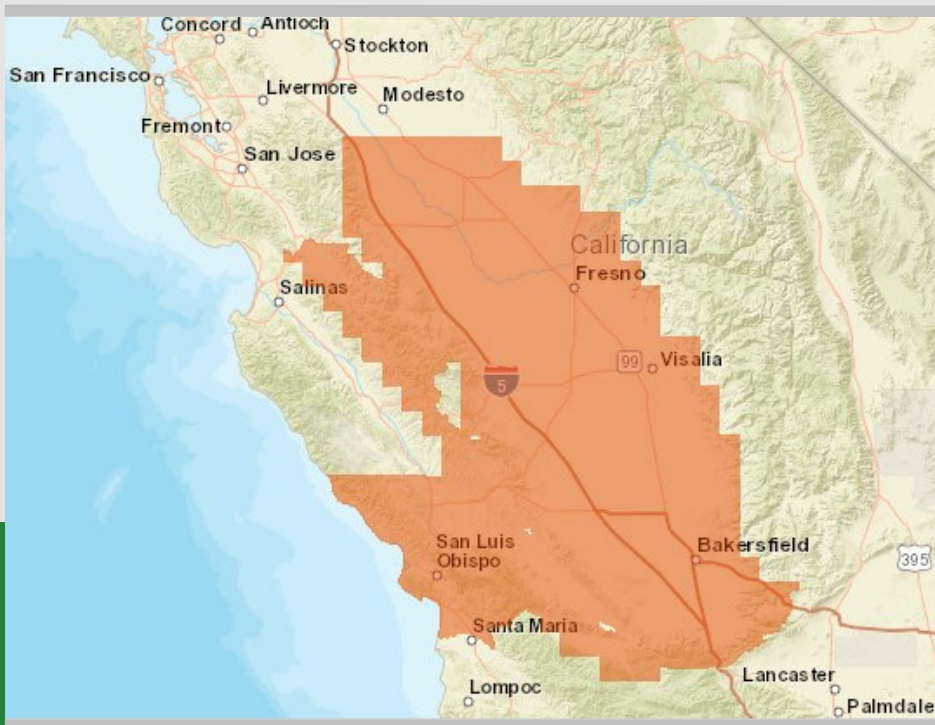
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USACE ROLE: Since 2008, the USACE has expended over \$63,000 on efforts related to the blunt-nosed lizard. These funds have been used by the Regulatory, Operations, and Environmental Stewardship Business Lines. Efforts include coordination and determination, inventorying, monitoring, surveying, and/or researching.

Map, right: Species' range map provided by U.S. Fish and Wildlife's Online Conservation System.

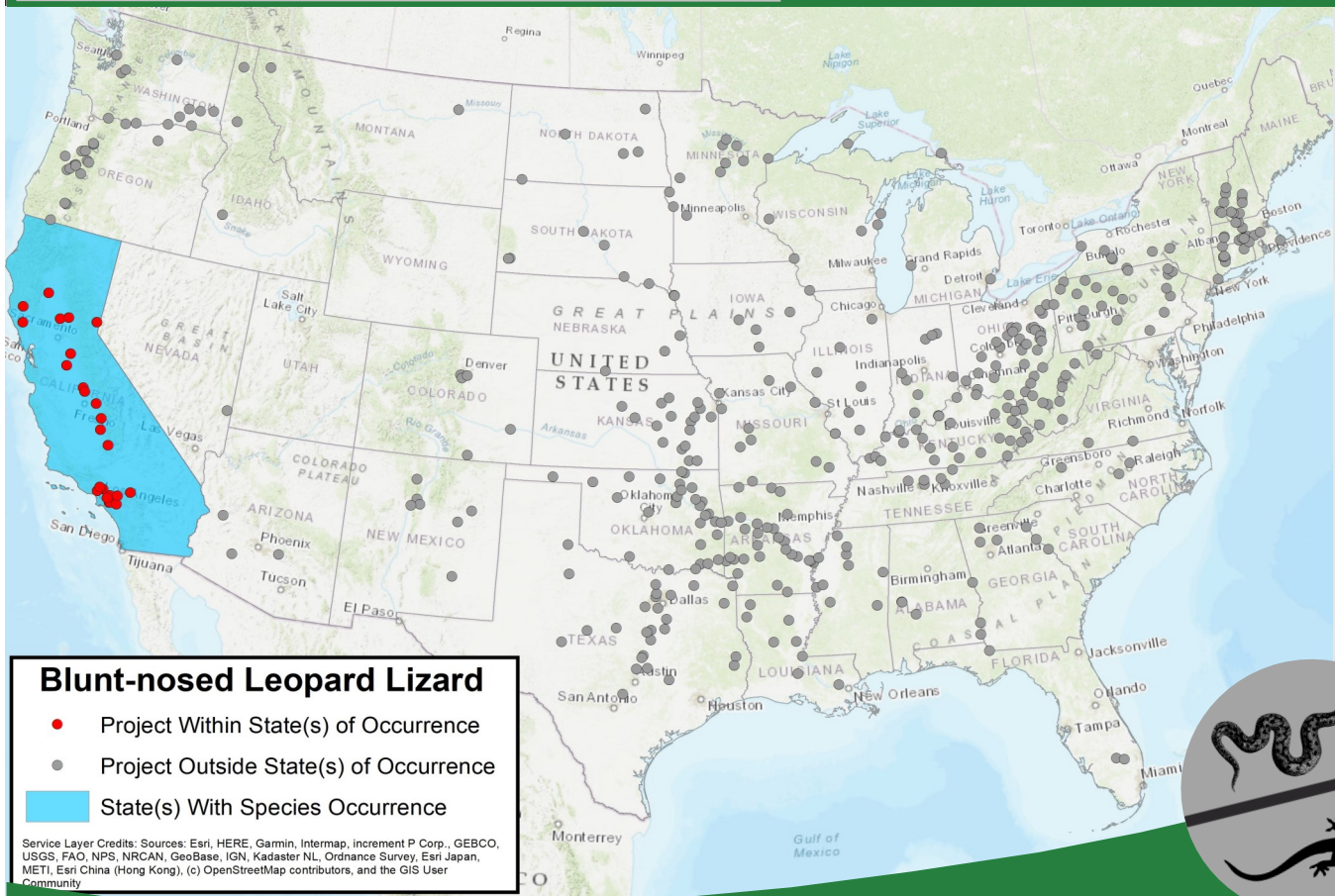
Graphic, below: The species is considered to be Critically Imperiled by NatureServe.



WHAT IS USACE NRM DOING:

The USACE manages multiple projects within the San Joaquin Valley of California where the blunt-nosed leopard lizard is found. At projects such as H.V. Eastman Lake, where the species has potential occurrence, USACE works closely with local resource agencies such as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in order to ensure that all current and future work can be executed without negative impacts to the blunt-nosed leopard lizard or its habitat.

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- Project Within State(s) of Occurrence
- Project Outside State(s) of Occurrence
- State(s) With Species Occurrence

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Source: Map provided by Ashleigh Boss, ONISE Fellowship, Institute for Water Resources

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