

Timeline of Dunes Sagebrush Lizard Regulatory Activities and Milestones

- December 1982. FWS identifies dunes sagebrush lizard as species for which proposed listing is “possibly appropriate.” [Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Review of Vertebrate Wildlife for Listing as Endangered or Threatened Species, 47 Fed. Reg. 58454, 58457 \(Dec. 30, 1982\).](#)
- October 2001. FWS assigns species a “listing priority number” of 2 (on a scale from 1 to 12), which is reserved only for species facing threats that are both imminent and of a high magnitude. [Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Review of Plant and Animal Species That Are Candidates or Proposed for Listing as Endangered or Threatened, Annual Notice of Findings on Recycled Petitions, and Annual Description of Progress on Listing Actions, 66 Fed. Reg. 54808, 54811 \(Oct. 30, 2001\).](#)
- December 2010. FWS proposes to list species as “endangered.” [Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Proposed Rule to List Dunes Sagebrush Lizard \(Sceloporus arenicolus\) as Endangered, 75 Fed. Reg. 77801 \(Dec. 14, 2010\).](#)
- 2011. Texas lawmakers shift authority for oversight of the Endangered Species Act in the state from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts. [Media article.](#)
- February 2012. FWS approves the Texas Comptroller of Public Account’s Texas Conservation Plan for Dunes Sagebrush Lizard. [Texas Conservation Plan for the Dunes Sagebrush Lizard \(Sceloporus arenicolus\) \(Feb. 13, 2012\).](#)
- June 2012. FWS withdraws the 2010 proposed rule to list the species. [Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Withdrawal of the Proposed Rule To List Dunes Sagebrush Lizard \(Sceloporus arenicolus\) as Endangered, 77 Fed. Reg. 36872 \(Jun. 19, 2012\).](#)
- March 2013. Using satellite images, Defenders of Wildlife reveals unreported and unauthorized habitat destruction from oil and gas development under the Texas Plan. [Habitat Disturbances Under the Texas Habitat Conservation Plan for the Dunes Sagebrush Lizard \(March 2013\).](#)
- June 2013. Defenders of Wildlife and the Center for Biological Diversity file lawsuit challenging FWS’s decision not to list the species. [Complaint.](#)
- November 2014. Glenn Hegar elected as Texas Comptroller, replacing Susan Combs. [Bio.](#)
- February 2016. Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar fired the Texas Habitat Conservation Foundation for reportedly failing to performing any of the habitat restoration work it was

supposed to do. [Media article](#).

- March 2016. Federal appeals court upholds FWS's decision not to list the species. [Court opinion](#).
- March 2017. Sand mining in lizard habitat begins around this time. See Defenders of Wildlife Story Map for images of sand mines.
- July 2017. Defenders of Wildlife learns about threat of sand mining to lizard and starts using satellite images to track growing footprint of sand mines. Defenders applies computer algorithm ([originally developed for the lesser prairie chicken](#)) to satellite images to find the sand mines.
- August 2017. Texas Comptroller's Office sends letter to FWS, alerting agency to threat of sand mining in lizard habitat. [Media article](#).
- August 2017. Texas Comptroller's Office posts on its website a July 2017 report from BIO-WEST that quantifies the amount of disturbance from oil and gas development in lizard habitat under the Texas Plan. [Disturbance Quantification in Dunes Sagebrush Lizard Habitat](#).
- September 25, 2017. Defenders of Wildlife, using a computer algorithm we developed to track habitat loss for the [lesser prairie chicken](#), releases online analysis showing extent of every sand mine in and around lizard habitat.