## Outdoor Recreation is Outdoor Education

## Grade level:

Pre-K to 4th

## **Objective**:

Learn about the sand dune lizard in New Mexico by coloring the following illustration while reading about them.

The sand dune lizard (*Sceloporus arenicolus*) has the second smallest range of any lizard in North America, only occurring in a narrow crescent-shaped area of southeastern New Mexico and western Texas. Throughout their range in New Mexico and Texas, elevation varies from 2,550-4,595 feet. The heart of the sand dune lizard's range is the Mescalero Sands, rolling dunes in southeastern New Mexico.



## Sand Dune Lizard

This lizard only lives in southeastern New Mexico and a small adjacent area of Texas in habitat of mostly shinnery oak and active sand dunes. If seen they are extremely shy and will quickly burrow in loose sand or beneath leaf litter. The main threats to its survival are removal of shinnery oak by herbicides as well as oil and gas exploration and development. They eat spiders and small insects, including ants, grasshoppers, beetles, and other small insects. State-listed as endangered.





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New Mexico Department of Game and Fish www.wildlife.state.nm.us 888-248-6866

