

WHAT ARE THE STANDARD PROTECTION MEASURES THAT ARE REQUIRED?

The Seminole Tribe of Florida is required by the Endangered Species Act to abide by standard measures adopted to protect this endangered species:

1. All construction personnel must watch the Wildlife Education Workshop video, which includes information on the sand skinks, and be able to identify a sand skink. Copies of the brochure must be kept on site at all times.
2. A qualified observer/biologist will be on-site for notification by construction personnel if a sand skink is sighted.
3. If a sand skink is found on the construction site, all activity must cease immediately, and the sand skink allowed to move away from any dangerous area on its own.



WHO DO YOU CONTACT IF YOU SEE A SAND SKINK ON THE RESERVATION?

Contact your direct supervisor

You may also contact::

***Seminole Tribe of Florida's
Wildlife Biologist***

Phone: 863-902-3249 x13411

Cell: 954-410-7073

**Seminole Tribe of Florida
Environmental Resource
Management Department**

Sand Skink *Neoseps reynoldsi*



Protecting Tribal Resources

WHAT IS A SAND SKINK?



The sand skink was placed on the Endangered Species Act in 1987. The sand skink is only known to be found in sandy ridges of central Florida, occurring in Highlands, Lake, Marion, Orange, Osceola, Polk, and Putnam counties. The sand skink has become vulnerable due to habitat loss from agricultural and residential uses and from habitat degradation due to fire exclusion.



Sand skinks are most active in the late spring which is their mating season. Sand skinks reach sexual maturity at 1 to 2 years of age and remain reproductively active until about 2 to 3 years of age. About 55 days after mating, the female lays 2 to 3 eggs, which hatch in June or July.

HOW CAN YOU IDENTIFY A SAND SKINK?



Sand skinks are about 4 to 5 inches in length and have a gray to tan color. Their forelegs are tiny, bearing only one toe. The hind legs are small and have two toes. Their tail comprises about half the skinks total length. The sand skink has a wedge shaped head, a partially countersunk lower jaw, body grooves into which the forelegs can be folded and small eyes with transparent lower lids. These features enable the skink to swim beneath the surface of loose sand where they forage.

Sand skinks live on a diet of surface dwelling invertebrates such as beetle larvae, termites, spiders, and larval antlions.



WHAT DOES THEIR HABITAT LOOK LIKE?

The sand skink is wide spread in xeric uplands with sandy substrates, but appear to be most abundant in ecotonal areas, typically between high pine and scrub. The sand skink is also found in rosemary scrub, turkey oak barrens or sandy areas of the high pine community. Areas free of abundant plant roots, with open canopies, scattered shrubby vegetation and patches of bare sand are optimal habitat.



WHAT SHOULD YOU DO IF YOU SEE A SAND SKINK?

If you encounter a sand skink, avoid all contact with it. If you are driving a vehicle or heavy equipment, stop, cease operation and allow the sand skink to pass before resuming construction. Do not touch the skink or harass it in any way. Please contact your supervisor or the number on the back of this pamphlet to report the location and circumstance of all sightings.