

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 bluetail mole skinks and be able to identify a bluetail mole 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 bluetail mole skink is sighted.
3. If a bluetail mole skink is found on the construction site, all activity must cease immediately, and the bluetail mole skink allowed to move away from any dangerous areas on its own.



WHO DO YOU CONTACT IF YOU SEE A BLUETAIL MOLE 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

Email: ermd:wildlife@semtribe.com

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

Bluetail Mole Skink

Eumeces egregius lividus



Protecting Tribal Resources

WHAT IS A BLUETAIL MOLE SKINK?



The bluetail mole skink was placed on the Endangered Species Act in 1987. The bluetail mole skink is only known to be found in sandy ridges of central Florida, occurring in Highlands, Osceola, and Polk counties.



The bluetail mole skink has become vulnerable due to habitat loss from agricultural and residential uses and from habitat degradation due to fire exclusion.

HOW CAN YOU IDENTIFY A BLUETAIL MOLE SKINK?



Bluetail mole skinks are about 3 to 6 inches in length and are brownish in color. Their legs are reduced in size and only used for surface locomotion and not when they are “swimming” underground. Juvenile usually have a bluish tail which makes up slightly more than half the animals length (top). The regenerated tails and the tails of the older individuals are typically pinkish (bottom).



The bluetail mole skin shares habitat with the sand skink, but does not compete with it. While the sand skink eats under ground, the bluetail mole skink hunts on the surface. The bluetail mole skink feeds primarily on spiders, cockroaches, and crickets.

WHAT DOES THEIR HABITAT LOOK LIKE?

The bluetail mole 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 bluetail mole 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 BLUETAIL MOLE SKINK?



If you encounter a bluetail mole skink, avoid all contact with it. If you are driving a vehicle or heavy equipment, stop, cease operation and allow the 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.