

INFORMATION HANDOUT

MATERIALS INFORMATION

**SAN JOAQUIN KIT FOX
BLUNT-NOSED LEOPARD LIZARD**

**ROUTE: 06-Ker-65-6.1/25.2
06-Tul-65-0.0/11.8**

SAN JOAQUIN KIT FOX

Pre-Construction Information Pamphlet



Presented by:
The California Department of Transportation
District 6 Central Region
Environmental Program



SAN JOAQUIN KIT FOX



San Joaquin Kit Fox (*Vulpes macrotis mutica*)

STATUS: Federally Endangered, State Threatened
DESCRIPTION:

Total Length: 24-31 in
Tail Length: 9-13 in
Ear Length: 3-4 in
Height: 9-12 in
Weight: 3-6 lbs
Color: Light buff to gray, rusty to yellow sides, buff to white underneath. Long tail is buff to grayish with black tip. Tail is extended when running.

SIMILAR SPECIES



Gray Fox (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*)

STATUS: No special status
DESCRIPTION:

Total Length: 32-45 in
Tail Length: 12-14 in
Ear Length: 2.5-4 in
Height: 12-20 in
Weight: 7-16 lbs
Color: Grayish buff, rusty lateral marking, white buff underneath. Tail has black dorsal stripe and black tip. Usually in woodland habitats.

SIMILAR SPECIES



Red Fox (*Vulpes vulpes*)

STATUS: No special status
DESCRIPTION:

Total Length: 36-40 in
Tail Length: 14-16 in
Ear Length: 3-4 in
Height: 14-16 in
Weight: 10-15 lbs
Color: Reddish back and sides, white belly, black legs and feet, white-tipped tail. Range is extending into grasslands.

SIMILAR SPECIES



Coyote (*Canis latrans*)

STATUS: No special status
DESCRIPTION:

Total Length: 38-60 in
Tail Length: 11.5-16 in
Ear Length: 3-5 in
Height: 15-22 in
Weight: 20-50 lbs
Color: Buff-gray or reddish gray, lighter below. Tail dark-tipped, held low when running.

TRAINING AGENDA

1. Introduction
2. Sign In Sheet
3. Handouts: Training Package, DO And DON'T cards
4. What Is The Purpose Of This Training?
Help the contractor and Caltrans comply with State and Federal laws protecting the San Joaquin kit fox. The kit fox is protected under both the State and Federal Endangered Species Act.

Status: Federally Endangered, State: Threatened
5. Short Discussion Of The Biology Of The San Joaquin Kit Fox
Member of the Dog Family (Canidae)
How to identify a kit fox:
 - Small size, 3-6 pounds (about the size of a small house cat)
 - Pointed nose
 - Large ears
 - Long, bushy tail with a black tip
6. 10 Min. Video On How To Identify The San Joaquin kit fox
7. Read San Joaquin kit fox Protection Provisions
8. Training Quiz
9. Floor Open To Questions

SAN JOAQUIN KIT FOX PROTECTION PROVISIONS

- A.** Entrance into areas within the right of way not required for construction activities shall be restricted to the highway and associated paved or graded shoulders. Staging, parking, storage, and other project related use areas shall be clearly marked on the ground.
- B.** Project-related traffic shall observe a 20 mph (32 kilometer per hour) speed limit except on roads or highways open for public use.
- C.** At the end of each working day, the Contractor shall take measures to prevent the entrapment of kit foxes in all excavated, steep walled holes or trenches more than 2 feet (0.6-m) deep. Such measures shall include covering excavations with plywood or providing dirt or plank escape ramps from the trenches.
- D.** The Contractor shall inspect all pipes and culverts with a diameter greater than or equal to 4 inches (100 mm) before burying, capping, or other use. If a kit fox is discovered during this inspection, the pipe or culvert shall not be disturbed (other than to move it to a safe location if necessary) until after the fox has escaped.
- E.** The Contractor shall immediately notify the Resident Engineer if a dead, injured, or entrapped kit fox is found. Work in the immediate area may be temporarily halted while Caltrans State Biologist, at the direction of the Resident Engineer, consults with the California Department of Fish and Game and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Any entrapped kit fox shall be permitted to escape. The disposition of any carcasses or recovering animals shall be coordinated through the Resident Engineer according to current laws and regulation.
- F.** If a kit fox den is discovered, all construction activity within a 150 feet (46 m) radius of the den will be halted while the State consults with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and California Department of Fish and Game. An Environmentally Sensitive Area will be established around the den and entry into the area will be restricted.
- G.** The Contractor shall provide closed garbage containers where food-related trash is generated, and garbage shall be disposed of daily.
- H.** Pets are prohibited on the work site.

SAN JOAQUIN KIT FOX "DO"

- "DO"** Stop all work immediately if a kit fox is seen on the project site
- "DO"** Report sighting of ANY kit fox to your supervisor

supervisor
 Supervisor report to Resident Engineer

Resident Engineer
 Resident Engineer call Caltrans Biologist

Caltrans Biologist
- "DO"** Check all culverts, trenches and pipes for kit fox presence
- "DO"** Dispose all trash in closed containers and haul off once a day
- "DO"** Observe the 20 mph speed limit in all project areas
- "DO"** Follow any additional project specific measures as directed by your supervisor, the Resident Engineer or the Caltrans Biologist

ITS THE LAW "DO NOT"

- "DO NOT"** Disturb, capture, handle, or move kit foxes
- "DO NOT"** Harass kit foxes in any way
- "DO NOT"** Leave any trenches, holes, culverts, or pipes uncovered over night or unchecked before capping, filling or moving
- "DO NOT"** Cap, fill, or move pipes, trenches, and or holes before checking for kit foxes
- "DO NOT"** Litter
- "DO NOT"** Bring pets on the job site

KIT FOX DEN EXAMPLES



Active kit fox dens can be found, even when adjacent to busy freeways.



Active den with trail on either side of entrance.



Characteristic "key-shaped" den opening and elevated mound of excavated den material.

SAN JOAQUIN KIT FOX

1. Have you been shown the San Joaquin kit fox awareness training video?
2. Have the distinguishing features of the kit fox been explained to you?
3. Have you been shown a color photograph of what a kit fox looks like?
4. Have you been informed of the substantial penalties associated with harassing, injuring or killing a kit fox?
5. Will you immediately report all kit fox sightings or incidents to your immediate supervisor?

Name

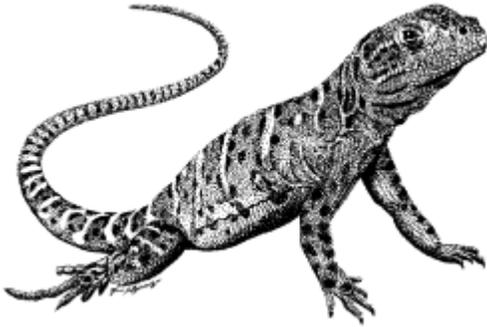
Phone Number

Cell Phone Number
6. Will you remove all garbage from the work area daily?
7. Will you obey the maximum 20 mph speed limit for all areas within the project?
8. Will you inspect your work area daily prior to start of work to make sure the area is clear of kit foxes? Check trenches, pipes, vehicles.
9. Will you take the necessary steps each day to keep the work area free of potential kit fox traps?
10. Do you feel there is any reason you will not be able to perform the duties explained to you during the kit fox awareness training you have just received?

Comments:

Date _____ **Employee Signature** _____

INFORMATION HANDOUT FOR THE BLUNT-NOSED LEOPARD LIZARD (*GAMBELIA SILUS*)



BLUNT-NOSED LEOPARD LIZARD (*GAMBELIA SILUS*)

Family: Phrynosomatidae Order: Squamata Class: Reptilia

DISTRIBUTION, ABUNDANCE AND SEASONALITY

Scarce resident of sparsely vegetated alkali and desert scrub habitats. Distribution has been extensively reduced by conversion of habitat to cropland. Currently occurs at scattered sites in the San Joaquin Valley and adjacent foothills. Found on alkali flats, large washes, arroyos, canyons, and low foothills from elevations of 30 to 900 m (100 to 3000 ft).



INFORMATION HANDOUT FOR THE BLUNT-NOSED LEOPARD LIZARD (*GAMBELIA SILUS*)

SPECIFIC HABITAT REQUIREMENTS

Feeding: Blunt-nosed leopard lizards are carnivorous. They are opportunistic foragers that hunt on the ground, catching grasshoppers, cicadas and small lizards (including smaller leopard lizards). They commonly forage by slowly stalking prey, then rapidly dashing in to capture it.

Cover: Shade for leopard lizards is provided by mammal burrows, shrubs or structures such as fence posts. Apparently leopard lizards do not excavate their own burrows.

Reproduction: Females sometimes excavate nests by altering vacated mammal burrows (e.g., kangaroo rats, California ground squirrels) to form a closed chamber approximately 50 cm (20 in) below the soil surface.

Water: Apparently no requirement for water.

Pattern: Suitable habitat for leopard lizards is characterized by sparsely vegetated scrub and grassland habitats in areas of low topographic relief. In areas of high relief, distribution is usually confined to broad sandy washes.



SPECIES LIFE HISTORY

Activity Patterns: These leopard lizards are diurnal. They hibernate during the winter and are active from mid-spring to mid-fall. Daily activity pattern, in part, is correlated with ambient temperature. During spring they are active at temperatures from 32° to 41 °C (82° to 106° F). Females remain active longer than males, possibly because of the need to replenish fat supplies used during egg production.

Seasonal Movements/Migration: Non-migratory.

Reproduction: Blunt-nosed leopard lizards mate from late April through May. These lizards are often polygynous, but some may remain paired for several seasons. Females usually lay eggs between May and June. The usual clutch size is 3 eggs, but may range from

INFORMATION HANDOUT FOR THE BLUNT-NOSED LEOPARD LIZARD (*GAMBELIA SILUS*)

2 to 6. Females normally produce one clutch per year, although occasionally a second is produced. The incubation period is about 57 days.

Niche: *Gambelia silus* and *G. wislizenii* populations are known to hybridize in Ventura Co. Shrikes, American kestrels, spotted skunks, burrowing owls, roadrunners, and ground squirrels are among the known predators. Lizard population densities may be correlated with an abundance of vacated small mammal burrows. Grazing practices that result in maintenance of scattered shrubs and grasses may benefit this lizard.

