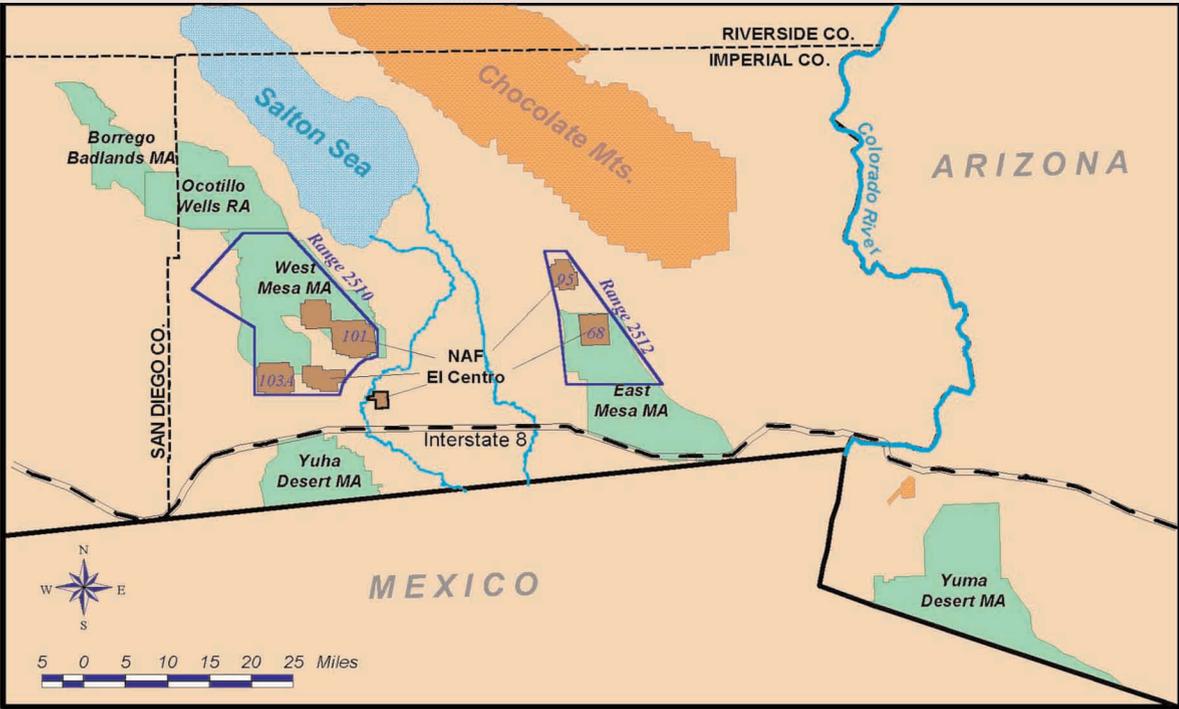
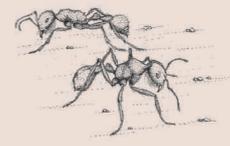


Conservation

The flat-tailed horned lizard occurs in the desert valleys of south-central and southeastern California, extreme southwestern Arizona and adjacent areas of northern Mexico. At NAF El Centro, it inhabits dry, sandy, sparsely vegetated areas of the Colorado Desert, including the East and West Mesas where Ranges 2512 and 2510 are located. Potential threats to flat-tailed horned lizards include agricultural development, the spread of exotic plants, urbanization, off-road vehicle use, utilities and roads, pesticide use, landfills, fire, military activity, mining and energy and water development.

To prevent further population decline and habitat loss due to these threats, the USFWS proposed in 1993 to list the flat-tailed horned lizard as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act. This proposal was withdrawn in 1997 as various land managers, including NAF El Centro, developed a conservation strategy that would sufficiently protect the species until 2002. At that time, the status of the lizard will be reviewed. The US Navy and NAF El Centro are committed to protect valuable horned lizard habitat by minimizing impact to the desert environment. As part of this strategy, the following guidelines should be followed on R-2510 and R-2512 to minimize impacts on the lizard.



Flat-tailed Horned Lizard Management Areas.

Mission Related Maintenance Activities

- Learn to recognize the flat-tailed horned lizard and know procedures to follow if encountered.
- Be extra cautious while driving on paved roads, especially at Target 101. Flat-tailed horned lizards like to warm themselves on asphalt roads.
- Use existing roads and easements only to enter target areas.
- Use previously disturbed sites for ground disrupting activity.
- Do not disturb more surface on a site than is necessary.
- Do not leave garbage behind, garbage attracts predators.
- Contact the Biological Monitor before performing the following:
 - Disking run in lines.
 - Cleaning debris from target areas.
 - Surveying perimeter fences.

Mission Related Construction Activities

- Learn to recognize the flat-tailed horned lizard and know procedures to follow if encountered.
- Contact the Biological Monitor before performing any construction, preferably early in the planning stages as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).
- Use clearly marked existing roads and easements only to enter target areas. No new roads will be bladed or constructed.
- Use previously disturbed sites for ground disturbing construction.
- Minimize number of staging areas for construction projects and disturb no more of the surface than is necessary.
- Flag construction sites.
- Have a Biological Monitor present during surface disturbing activities to work with the construction supervisor and relocate any flat-tailed horned lizards.
- Restore disturbed area to near-original condition.
- Remove all waste from site.



Flat-tailed horned lizards most effectively avoid predators by simply holding still. They have not developed survival skills for vehicular traffic.

What to Do

- Watch your step.
- Minimize your impact.
- Avoid flat-tailed horned lizards on roads.
- Do not remove flat-tailed horned lizards from their habitat.
- Pack out garbage you pack in.
- If a flat-tailed horned lizard is encountered: Contact the Biological Monitor to remove the lizard from harm's way. Only persons authorized by the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) or the Arizona Game and Fish Department shall be permitted to handle flat-tailed horned lizards.

Contact

- Environmental Division (760) 339-2261
- Operations Office (760) 339-2265

It is important to be aware of your surroundings, including the presence of the flat-tailed horned lizard.

However, accidents happen. If you accidentally harm or kill a flat-tailed horned lizard, or observe an injured FTHL within the NAF El Centro management areas, call the above number(s).



Flat-tailed Horned Lizard

NAF El Centro

