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Texas Tech research used to keep lizard off endangered list

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If a tiny lizard makes the endangered species list, it could put tens of thousands of oil and gas jobs in our area at risk. Texas Senator John Cornyn is working to keep that from happening and now with help from Texas Tech research.



The Dunes Sagebrush Lizard is found in nine Eastern New Mexico and West Texas counties where there's plenty of ranching, farming, and oil industry activity. Using research done by Tech scientists, Senator John Cornyn may have helped sway the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to delay a decision on listing the reptile as an endangered species.

"We did some studies designed to look at several stressors identified by the Fish and Wildlife Service," said Chris Salice, an assistant professor of environmental toxicology. "We didn't find evidence that those stress factors were negatively affecting the species."

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service was expected to make a decision next week; however, the service announced that it would postpone the decision for another six months to evaluate more data.

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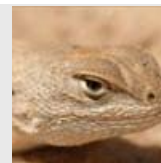


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