

## FIGHTING FOR SURVIVAL

### Sagebrush Sea Scarab Beetles



Giuliani's Big Dune Scarab Beetle



Large Aegialian Scarab Beetle

Photos: Richard Rust

### IMPERILED SAGEBRUSH SEA SCARAB BEETLES

Sand dunes within the American West's Sagebrush Sea support unique flora and fauna, including a host of imperiled beetles. WildEarth Guardians has petitioned for Endangered Species Act protection for six scarab beetles in the Great Basin, each one endemic to the sand dunes where they occur.

- Crescent Dunes Aegialian Scarab (*Aegialia crescenta*)
- Crescent Dunes Serican Scarab (*Serica ammomensico*)
- Hardy's Aegialian Scarab (*Aegialia hardyi*)
- Sand Mountain Serican Scarab (*Serica psammobunus*)
- Giuliani's Dune Scarab (*Pseudocotalpa giulianii*)
- Large Aegialian Scarab (*Aegialia magnifica*)

### DRIVEN TO EXTINCTION?

Sand dunes in the Great Basin are favorite areas for off-road vehicle (ORV) recreation, often attracting thousands of riders on a single weekend. ORV use can reduce or eliminate beetle populations by destroying dune vegetation and disturbing intact dunes. ORV users often ignore restrictions to protect important dune habitat.

### KNOW YOUR BEETLES

- Snug as a Bug: sand dune beetles burrow into the sand during periods of inactivity. Adults and larvae are found just a few inches to 15 inches under the sand surface.
- Nighttime Lovers: sand dune beetles emerge in spring for short periods at sunset to mate.
- Round Two: the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service considered protecting Giuliani's Dune Scarab as "threatened" under the Endangered Species Act in 1978, but the Service failed to act before a Congressionally imposed deadline required the agency to forgo further consideration of listing.

### SAGEBRUSH SEA STAT

More than 1,000 different insects live in the Sagebrush Sea.

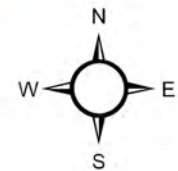




# Imperiled Scarab Beetles in the Sagebrush Sea

- Crescent Dune aegialian scarab
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- Giuliani's dune scarab
- Hardy's aegialian scarab
- Large aegialian scarab
- Sand Mountain serican scarab

- Sagebrush Sea
- Counties
- ~ Major Rivers
- ☪ Major Lakes



Cartography: Kurt Menke, GISP  
Birds Eye View  
Date: December 1, 2009  
Data Sources: LandFire  
and USGS