

Yellow Mud Turtles *Kinosternon flavescens*

Habitat Preference: Shallow, often ephemeral bodies of water adjacent to soils of nearly pure sand. Yellow mud turtles spend 9 months out of the year aestivating burrowed about 30 feet in the ground under pools of shallow water. They emerge between late May and early June and move to areas of sand adjacent to the water bodies to lay eggs. They return to the water eating and breeding for the next few weeks and return under ground by August.



Threats:

- Open sandy areas are being lost to woody encroachment.
- Trees are growing between the shallow water needed for breeding and aestivating and the sandy nesting ground causing a barrier these turtles have trouble maneuvering.
- Ephemeral pools important for breeding have silted in.
- There is limited suitable areas for nesting
- Sand dunes have eroded away.
- Farming (plowing, draining, irrigating).

Habitat Improvement Guidelines:

- Remove encroaching trees. This should be done while the turtles are inactive (August-May).
- Excavate ephemeral pools that are commonly used for mating. Many of these pools have silted in and no longer hold water during the crucial mating time.