

---

# A Grasshopper

## *Argiacris keithi*

---

Insecta — Orthoptera — Acrididae

### CONSERVATION STATUS / CLASSIFICATION

Rangewide: Critically imperiled/Vulnerable (G1G3)  
Statewide: Critically imperiled (S1)  
ESA: No status  
USFS: Region 1: No status; Region 4: No status  
BLM: No status  
IDFG: Not classified

### BASIS FOR INCLUSION

Lack of essential information pertaining to status; Idaho endemic.

### TAXONOMY

This species was described by A. B. Gurney in 1971.

### DISTRIBUTION AND ABUNDANCE

This grasshopper is endemic to Idaho. Specimens have been collected at locations in Custer and Lemhi counties.

### POPULATION TREND

No data are available to suggest population trend. The species has not been collected since 1970, but this may reflect sampling effort rather than a population decline. The current status of populations, however, is not known.

### HABITAT AND ECOLOGY

Some specimens have been collected “chiefly on barren rocky gravelly ridges and talus slopes showing very little soil development; vegetation consisted of clumps of fescue grass and forbs, along with occasional conifers.” In general, the locations where *A. keithi* has been found are in rugged, mountainous terrain (Gurney 1971). The elevational range of the species is approximately 2500-3000 m.

### ISSUES

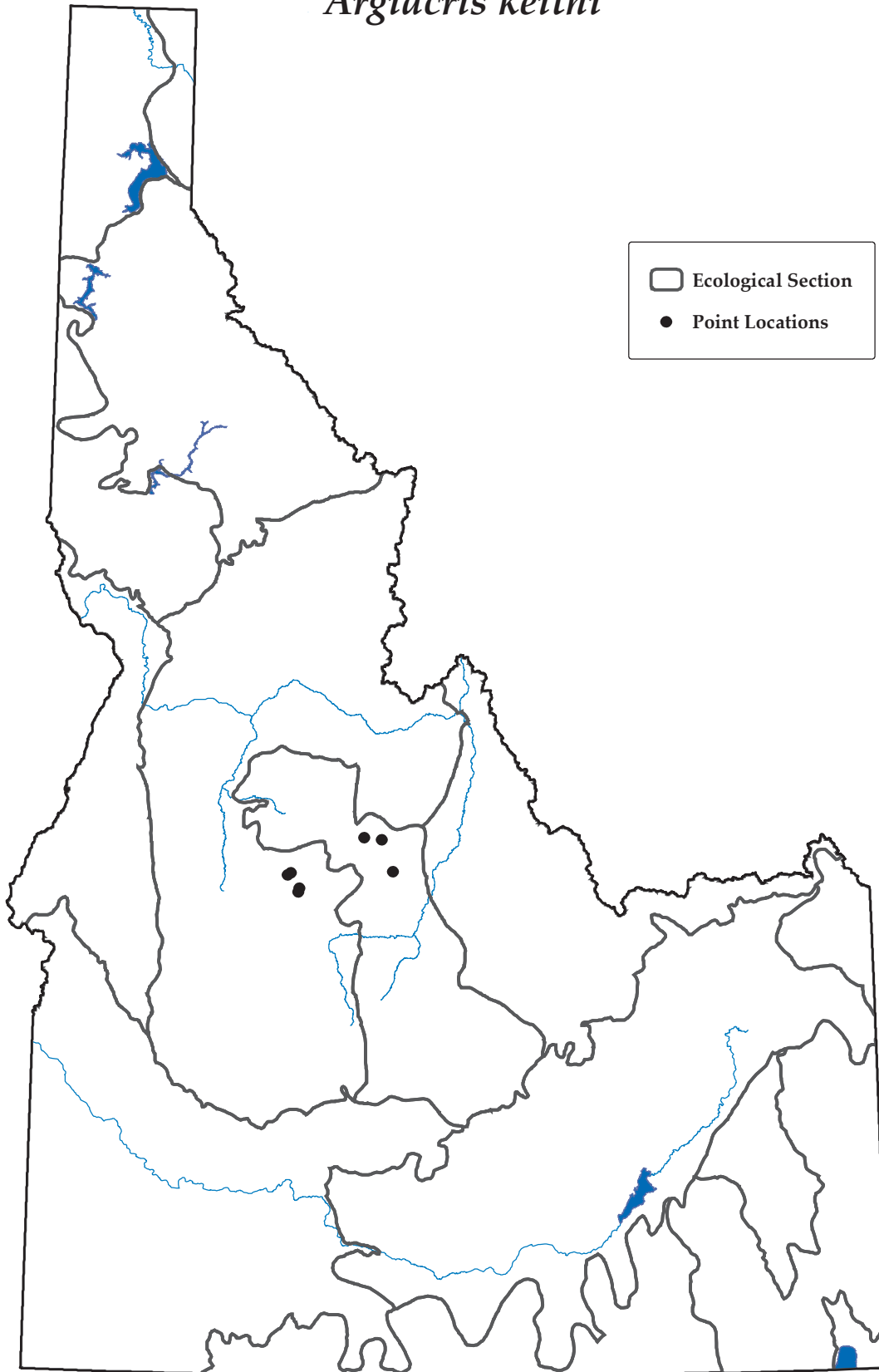
Threats to grasshoppers include pesticides and habitat modification. Although conversion of native habitat to agricultural uses has benefited some grasshopper species, there are no data to suggest that agriculture has benefited this species. Kemp (1994) reported post-drought declines of certain taxa; drought combined with other habitat modifications may be of particular importance.

### RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

No collections have been made since 1970. Field surveys are needed to evaluate the current status and distribution of Idaho populations and to gain information describing habitat associations and threats to populations.

# A Grasshopper

*Argiacris keithi*



2 August 2005  
Point data are from Idaho Conservation Data Center,  
Idaho Department of Fish and Game.

