A Spur-throat Grasshopper

*Melanoplus trigeminus*

Insecta — Orthoptera — Acrididae

**CONSERVATION STATUS / CLASSIFICATION**

- Rangewide: Critically imperiled/Imperiled (G1G2)
- 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**

Strohecker (1963) considered this species to be similar to *M. artemisiae* and *M. lemhiensis*. These 3 taxa comprise the *artemisiae* group of the genus *Melanoplus*, and all 3 are found in a relatively small area of eastern Idaho.

**DISTRIBUTION AND ABUNDANCE**

This grasshopper is endemic to Idaho. Specimens have been reported from 1 location in Clark County and 3 locations in Lemhi County.

**POPULATION TREND**

No data are available to suggest population trend. Recent collection (i.e., since at least 1970) of this species is not known.

**HABITAT AND ECOLOGY**

The general elevational range of the collection sites is about 1400-1460 m. No information describing the habitat is available.

**ISSUES**

Specific threats to this taxon are unknown. 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.

**RECOMMENDED ACTIONS**

This species has not been detected since 1970. Surveys are needed to determine the current status of populations.
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Point data are from Idaho Conservation Data Center, Idaho Department of Fish and Game.

2 August 2005