
California Floater

Anodonta californiensis

Bivalvia — Unionida — Unionidae

CONSERVATION STATUS / CLASSIFICATION

Rangewide: Vulnerable (G3)
Statewide: Imperiled (S2)
ESA: No status
USFS: Region 1: No status; Region 4: No status
BLM: Regional/State imperiled (Type 3)
IDFG: Not classified

BASIS FOR INCLUSION

Reduced distribution and declining populations rangewide.

TAXONOMY

This species has been confused with *Anodonta nuttalliana nuttalliana*. *Anodonta nuttalliana idahoensis* is synonymous with *Anodonta californiensis* (Frest 1999). Taylor (1981) and Frest (1999) suggested that *Anodonta californiensis* may be a composite species.

DISTRIBUTION AND ABUNDANCE

The historical range of this freshwater mussel includes British Columbia, Oregon, Washington, California, Idaho, Wyoming, Utah, Nevada, and Arizona. This species is thought to be eradicated throughout much of this range. Within Idaho, populations occur in the Snake River drainage, primarily in the middle Snake River (Frest 1999, Taylor 1981). Populations are likely to occur in the lower Salmon River (Frest 1999), but no records exist and no survey has been performed (Frest and Johannes 1997).

POPULATION TRENDS

Based on number of individuals and the number of remaining sites, population trends are considered to be downward (Frest 1999).

HABITAT AND ECOLOGY

The California floater occurs in lakes and large streams at low elevations. This species is typically found on soft substrates and in areas with relatively slow current. Individuals can tolerate only moderate pollution levels (Frest 1999).

Larval California floaters are fish parasites, attaching to the fins or gills of host fish. The host fish is unknown (Frest 1999).

ISSUES

This is a cold water species that is sensitive to changes in water quality. As a result of effluence from agriculture, freshwater aquaculture, urban development, and industry, eutrophication has occurred in much of the middle Snake River. The river is also

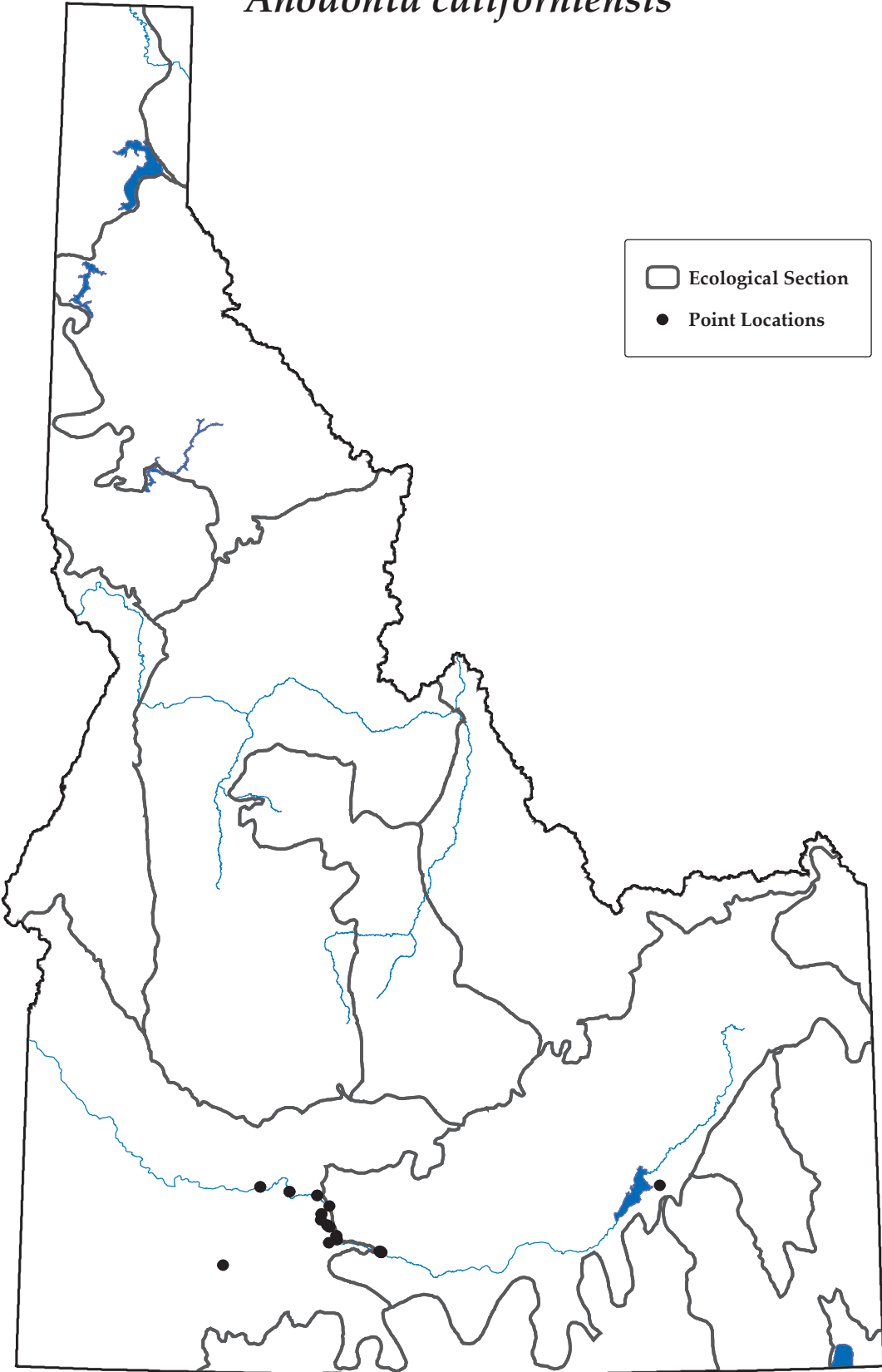
dammed, which affects the water temperature regime and alters sedimentation patterns. Introduction of exotic mollusks, declining natural fish host populations, diversions for irrigation, livestock, domestic, and industrial uses, and grazing are also potential threats to this species (Taylor 1981, Frest 1999).

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

Research to clarify taxonomy is necessary. Surveys are needed statewide, particularly in the lower Salmon River.

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

