
Cloaked Physa *Physa megalochlamys*

Gastropoda — Basommatophora — Physidae

CONSERVATION STATUS / CLASSIFICATION

Rangewide: Vulnerable (G3)
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 in Idaho.

TAXONOMY

This species was only recently described (Taylor 1988). No subspecies has been described.

DISTRIBUTION AND ABUNDANCE

This aquatic snail occurs in widely scattered localities in Saskatchewan, Wyoming, Idaho, Oregon, Utah, and Colorado (Taylor 1988). The extent of the range within Idaho is somewhat uncertain; only a single record from southeastern Idaho has been documented (Taylor 1988). The species may occur elsewhere in southeastern Idaho or in the northern part of the state (Frest 1999). The paucity of records likely reflects limited sampling for this taxon because it has only recently been described.

POPULATION TREND

Unknown.

HABITAT AND ECOLOGY

The cloaked physa inhabits both perennial and intermittent marshes and ponds. Inhabited ponds and marshes are typically characterized by fine mud substrates. This species is often associated with bulrushes and cattails (Taylor 1988).

ISSUES

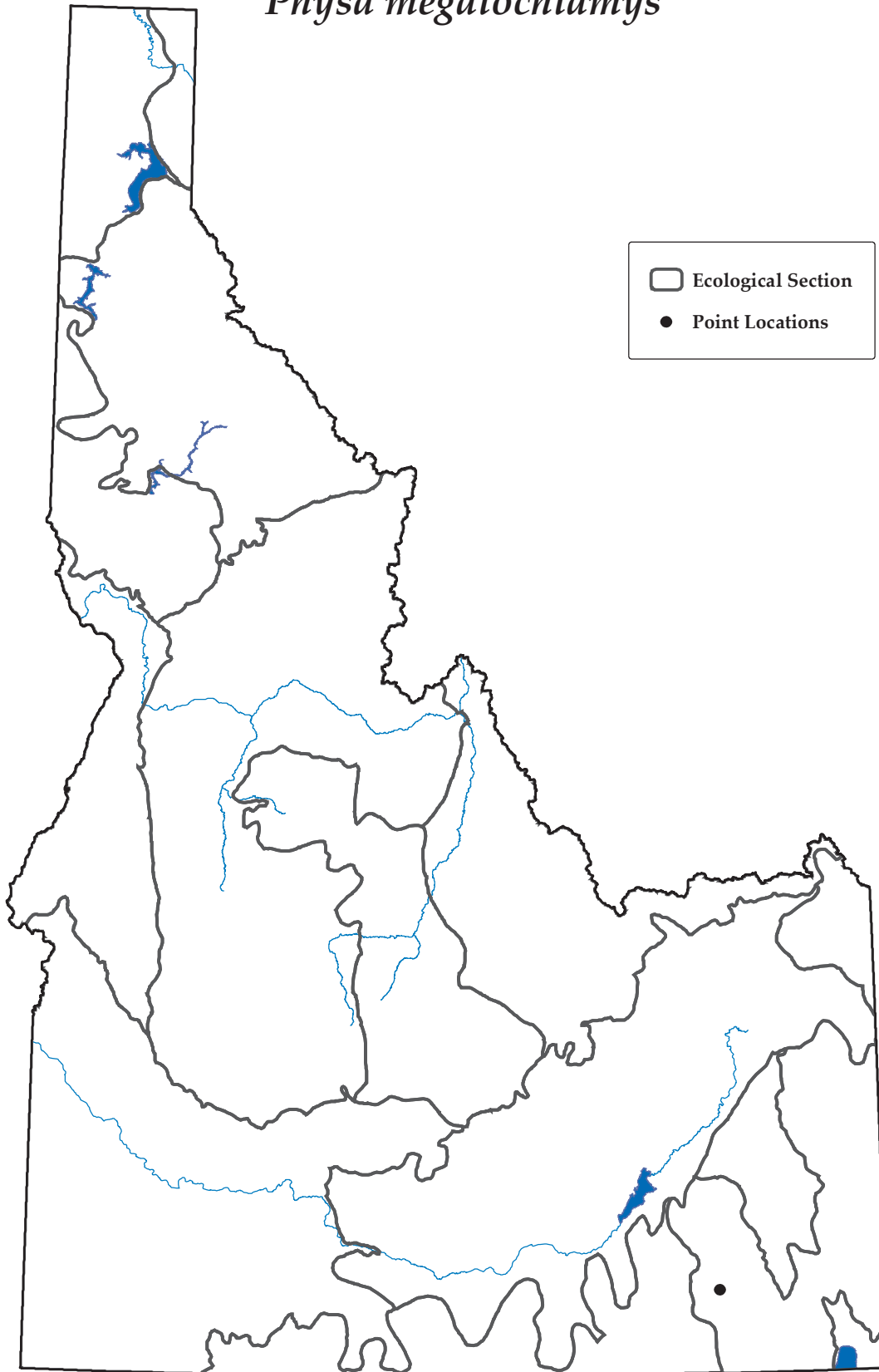
Threats to the species in Idaho are not documented. Potential threats include draining and dredging of marshes and ponds, insecticides, pesticides, agricultural effluence, irrigation diversions, and residential and industrial developments (Frest 1999).

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

Surveys are needed to determine the range and status of this species in Idaho. Data describing population numbers, range, ecology, and trends are needed.

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

