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## Coast Mole

### *Scapanus orarius*

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Mammalia — Insectivora — Talpidae

#### CONSERVATION STATUS / CLASSIFICATION

Rangewide: Secure (G5)  
Statewide: Imperiled (S2)  
ESA: No status  
USFS: Region 1: No status; Region 4: No status  
BLM: Peripheral (Type 4)  
IDFG: Unprotected wildlife

#### BASIS FOR INCLUSION

Limited range in Idaho and disjunct population.

#### TAXONOMY

The subspecies occurring in Idaho is *S. o. schefferi* (Hartman and Yates 1985).

#### DISTRIBUTION AND ABUNDANCE

The range of the coast mole includes southwest British Columbia, Washington, western Oregon, northwest California, and west-central Idaho (Hartman and Yates 1985). Within Idaho, populations occur in the Wildhorse and upper Weiser river basins. The species is the only mole occurring in Idaho, and only 6 records are known.

#### POPULATION TREND

No data are available to suggest population trend.

#### HABITAT AND ECOLOGY

The coast mole is a burrowing mammal that is occasionally active above ground. Idaho records are from grassy riparian areas and grassy meadows in Douglas-fir and ponderosa pine forest. Population are typically associated with relatively high soil moisture. The diet consists largely of earthworms, as well as insect larvae and other invertebrates (Hartmann and Yates 1985).

#### ISSUES

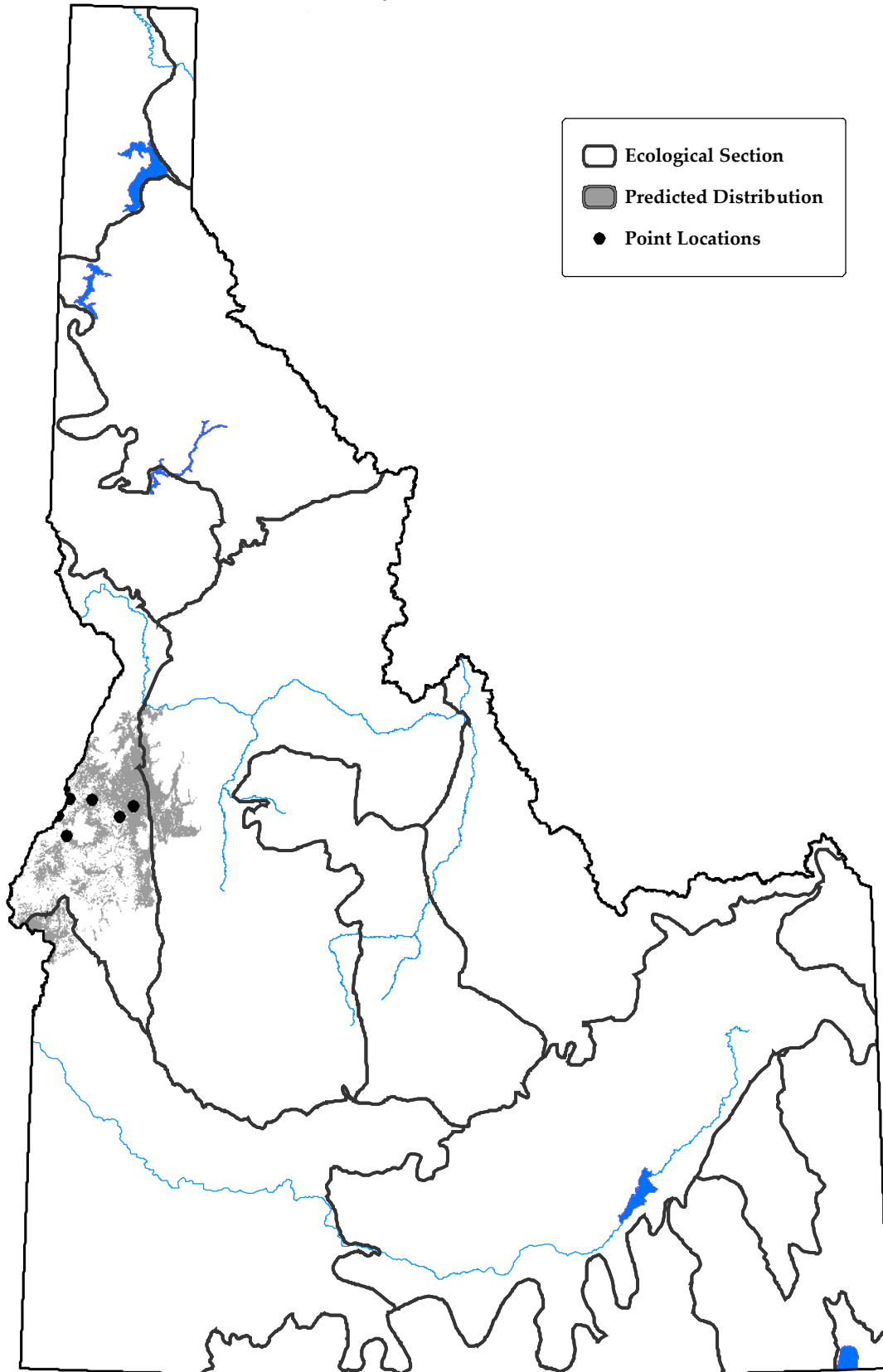
Habitat loss is the primary threat to the persistence of the species in Idaho. Forest encroachment into open meadows creates conditions that are unsuitable for coast moles; fire suppression affects the maintenance and creation of meadow habitats in forests. Habitat fragmentation can arise from road construction. Conversion of habitat to agricultural or residential uses is a potential threat; human persecution as well as domesticated dogs and cats greatly increase mortality rates, which is of particular importance when small populations occur in limited areas of suitable habitat.

**RECOMMENDED ACTIONS**

Surveys are needed to gain a better understanding of current distribution and population status, as well as habitat associations and threats to populations. Where populations are known to occur, habitat protection or restoration may be needed.

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Map created on September 28, 2005  
and prepared by Idaho Conservation Data Center.  
Sources: Point data are from Idaho Conservation Data Center,  
Idaho Department of Fish and Game (2005). Predicted distribution  
is from the Wildlife Habitat Relationships Models (WHR),  
A Gap Analysis of Idaho: Final Report. Idaho Cooperative Fish  
and Wildlife Research Unit, Moscow, ID (Scott et al. 2002).  
Predicted distribution is approximate (for more information, go to  
[http://www.wildlife.uidaho.edu/idgap/idgap\\_report.asp](http://www.wildlife.uidaho.edu/idgap/idgap_report.asp)).

