
Costate Mountainsnail

Oreohelix idahoensis

Gastropoda — Stylommatophora — Oreohelicidae

CONSERVATION STATUS / CLASSIFICATION

Rangewide: Critically imperiled/Imperiled (G1G2)
Statewide: Imperiled (S2)
ESA: No status
USFS: Region 1: No status; Region 4: No status
BLM: Rangewide/Globally imperiled (Type 2)
IDFG: Not classified

BASIS FOR INCLUSION

Idaho endemic; declining abundance and distribution.

TAXONOMY

Two subspecies, *O. idahoensis idahoensis* and *O. idahoensis baileyi*, are recognized. The type locality of *O. idahoensis baileyi* was imprecisely defined in the original description of this taxon and has not been relocated (Frest 1999).

DISTRIBUTION AND ABUNDANCE

This terrestrial snail is endemic to the Salmon River Canyon from the mouth of Race Creek to Lucile (Frest and Johannes 1995b). The species has been reported to occur at 32 sites within a narrow corridor spanning just a few kilometers.

Frest and Johannes (1995b, 1997) found live individuals to be common at about half of their sites but uncommon or absent (i.e., only empty shells could be found) at the remainder.

POPULATION TREND

Frest (1999) considered this species to be declining, noting a decrease in occupied area and, at some sites, rarity of live individuals or apparent extirpations based on the presence of empty shells but no live individual.

HABITAT AND ECOLOGY

This species occurs in association with exposed limestone or calcareous schist. Occupied sites are dominated by xeric vegetation, such as sagebrush, netleaf hackberry, and prickly pear (Frest and Johannes 1995b, Frest 1999).

ISSUES

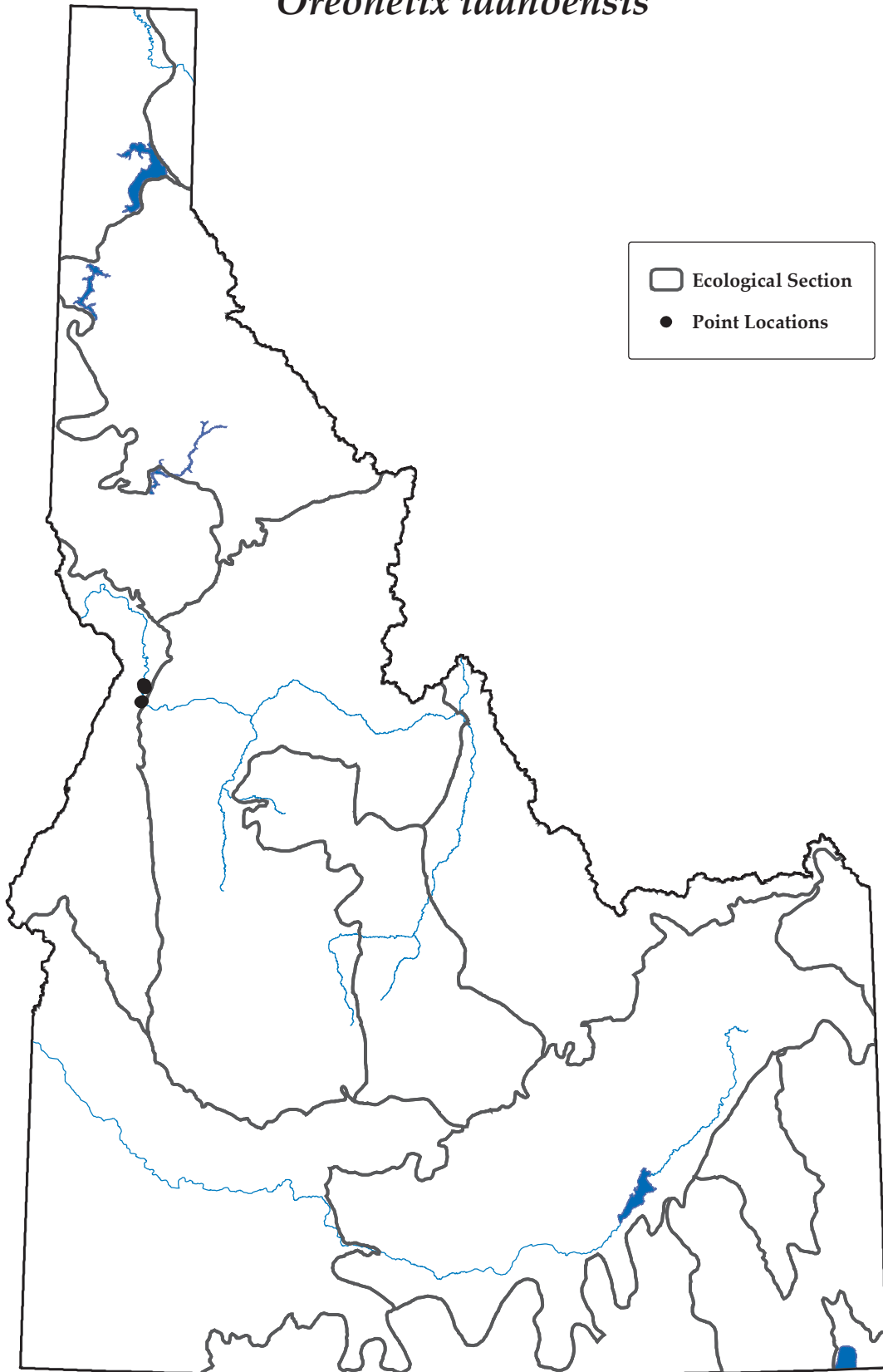
This species is vulnerable to habitat loss and fragmentation. Activities causing surface disturbance, such as grazing, housing development, and mining or quarrying are threats (see Frest 1999).

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

Protection of extant sites from habitat loss is the most important conservation need for this species. Additional surveys are also needed to clarify the current population status.

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

