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# Great Basin Collared Lizard

## *Crotaphytus bicinctores*

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Reptilia — Lacertilia — Crotaphytidae

### CONSERVATION STATUS / CLASSIFICATION

Rangewide:	Secure (G5)
Statewide:	Critically imperiled (S1)
ESA:	No status
USFS:	Region 1: No status; Region 4: No status
BLM:	Regional/State imperiled (Type 3)
IDFG:	Protected nongame

### BASIS FOR INCLUSION

Population trend data are lacking; habitat threats.

### TAXONOMY

Subspecies are not currently recognized.

### DISTRIBUTION AND ABUNDANCE

The Great Basin collared lizard occurs from southwest Idaho and eastern Oregon south across the Great Basin to northern Arizona and southeastern California. Idaho populations occur at lower elevations along the Snake River, primarily in Owyhee and Canyon counties. This cluster of populations extends into eastern Oregon and represents the northern extent of the species' distribution.

Collared lizards appear to be sparsely distributed within occupied habitat. Density varies primarily in proportion to rock cover. Cossel et al. (2004) found densities at occupied sites to range from 0.27 to 4.47 individuals per hectare.

### POPULATION TREND

Population trend is unknown.

### HABITAT AND ECOLOGY

This lizard occurs in rocky, sparsely vegetated habitat. Typical vegetation at sites includes sagebrush, saltbush, and bunchgrasses. Scattered rocks used as basking perches are a characteristic habitat component. Preferred rock sizes at southern Idaho locations measured 0.25–1.00 m in diameter. Prey consists of large arthropods and lizards.

### ISSUES

Loss or alteration of suitable habitat is likely the greatest threat to the species (Pope and Munger 2003). Rock quarrying is prevalent within the range of the species. Off-road vehicle use is intensive in the vicinity of some populations and has the potential to negatively affect prey populations, habitat composition and structure, and mortality rates

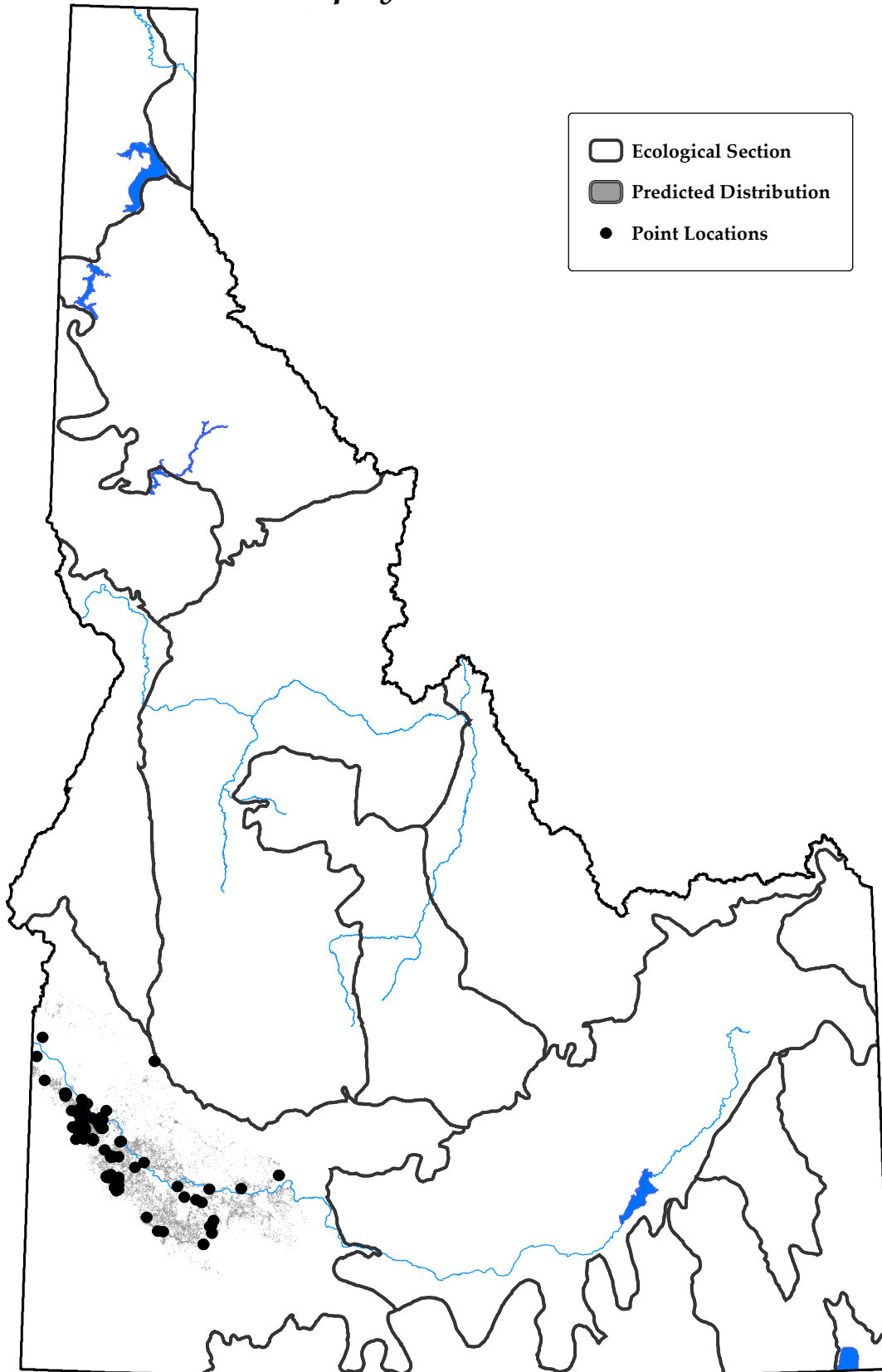
of collared lizards. The pervasive replacement of low–elevation shrub habitat in the region with non–native grassland habitat is also of concern.

### **RECOMMENDED ACTIONS**

A survey and monitoring program is needed to provide a basis for evaluating distribution and population trend. Habitat protection measures are needed to minimize habitat conversion and alteration within the range of this species such that core habitats are protected and habitat connectivity is maintained among proximal population segments.

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Map created on September 19, 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)).

