
Groundsnake

Sonora semiannulata

Reptilia — Serpentes — Colubridae

CONSERVATION STATUS / CLASSIFICATION

Rangewide: Secure (G5)
Statewide: Imperiled (S2)
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

Sonora semiannulata semiannulata is the subspecies in Idaho.

DISTRIBUTION AND ABUNDANCE

This species occurs across arid and semi-arid regions of the southwestern U. S. and northern Mexico. The northern-most populations are in southwest Idaho. Populations occur along the Snake River canyon, from approximately Bruneau to Marsing (Linder and Fichter 1977, Diller and Wallace 1981). Additional Idaho records have been reported in the town of Star, Hell's Canyon, and Orchard Training Area. Idaho and southeast Oregon populations appear to be disjunct from Nevada populations by approximately 250 km.

POPULATION TREND

Population trend is unknown.

HABITAT AND ECOLOGY

Populations are found in xeric habitat characterized by sandy or loose soil textures, talus slopes, and boulder fields. Vegetation is characteristically sparse, comprising shrubs, such as shadscale, sagebrush, greasewood, and bunchgrasses and annual grasses.

The species is primarily fossorial. Individuals are uncommonly encountered on the surface and typically found where some soil moisture is retained, such as under rocks or other surface debris or among the roots of grass clumps.

This species is primarily an invertivore, though food habits have not been documented in Idaho.

ISSUES

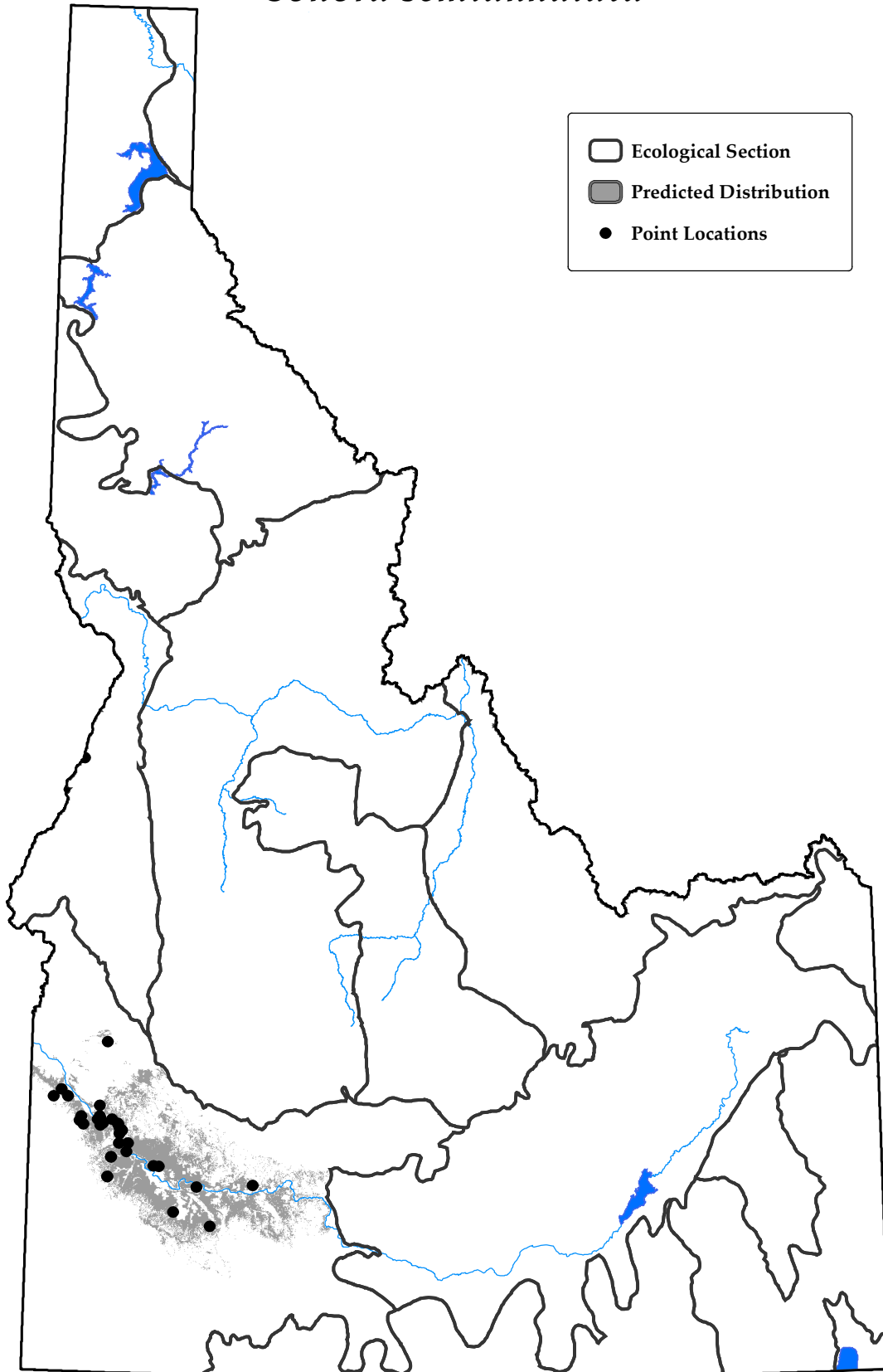
Habitat loss is a concern in some parts of the Idaho range. Rock quarrying for landscaping is prevalent within the Idaho range of this species. Off road vehicle use is intensive in parts of the range, as well. Pesticide and herbicide use could be a threat because groundsnakes feed primarily upon small invertebrates. Habitat conversion to urban and agricultural uses is a threat in some areas.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

Few data are available to suggest the extent of populations within the known range, direct threats to those populations, and population trend. A comprehensive survey and monitoring program for reptiles and amphibians occurring within the range of this species is needed.

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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).

