
Lava Rock Mountainsnail

Oreohelix waltoni

Gastropoda — Stylommatophora — Oreohelicidae

CONSERVATION STATUS / CLASSIFICATION

Rangewide: Critically imperiled/Vulnerable (G1G3)
Statewide: Critically imperiled (S1)
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

No subspecies have been proposed.

DISTRIBUTION AND ABUNDANCE

This terrestrial snail is endemic to Idaho and restricted to a few sites in the lower Salmon River Canyon.

POPULATION TREND

Frest (1999) considered this species to be declining. He noted 2 populations that appear to have been extirpated and 1 population where live individuals are especially rare. No extant populations are thought to be stable or increasing in abundance.

HABITAT AND ECOLOGY

Colonies occur in xeric habitat. Characteristic plant associates include sagebrush, netleaf hackberry, and grasses. One population is found in basalt talus and other colonies are associated with "mixed schist/alluvium" (Frest 1999).

ISSUES

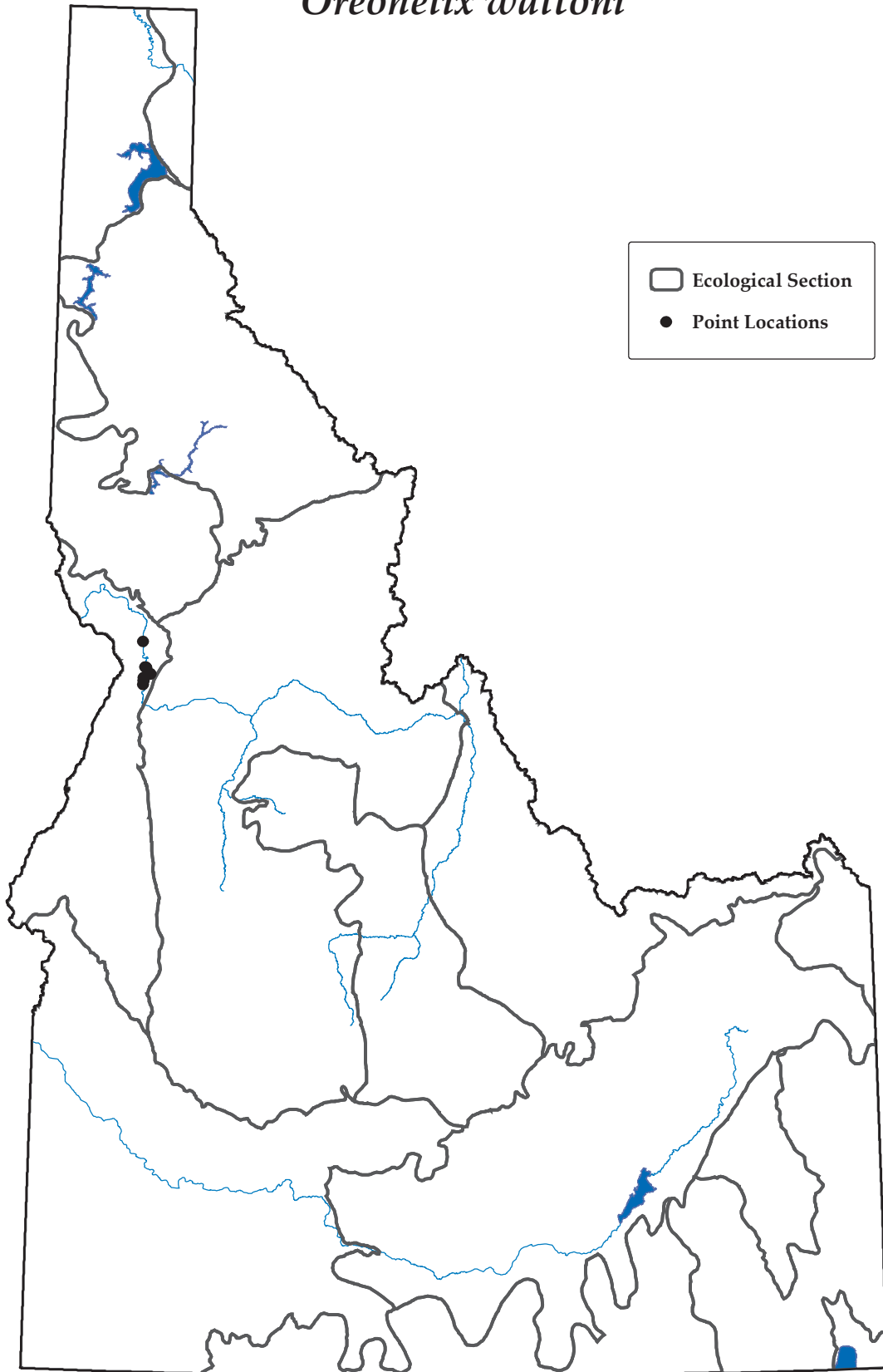
Habitat loss and degradation resulting from livestock grazing, rock quarrying, and road construction and maintenance are thought to be the primary threats (Frest 1999).

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.

