
Little Pocket Mouse

Perognathus longimembris

Mammalia — Rodentia — Heteromyidae

CONSERVATION STATUS / CLASSIFICATION

Rangewide: Secure (G5)
Statewide: Critically imperiled (S1)
ESA: No status
USFS: Region 1: No status; Region 4: No status
BLM: Peripheral (Type 4)
IDFG: Unprotected wildlife

BASIS FOR INCLUSION

Lack of information pertaining to status in Idaho.

TAXONOMY

Two subspecies occur in Idaho. *P. longimembris nevadensis* occurs in Owyhee County. *P. longimembris gulosus* occurs in Cassia County.

DISTRIBUTION AND ABUNDANCE

The little pocket mouse occurs in arid portions of the Great Basin and Mohave deserts of Nevada, California, Oregon, and Idaho (Verts and Carraway 1998). The Idaho distribution comprises the extreme southwest corner of Owyhee County and the southern edge of Cassia County.

POPULATION TREND

No trend data are available for Idaho.

HABITAT AND ECOLOGY

This species is primarily associated with arid, sparsely vegetated habitat characterized by desert scrub vegetation, such as shadscale, horsebrush, winterfat, black greasewood, and big sagebrush (Fautin 1946, Brown 1973, Bowers 1986). Populations are usually associated with sandy or finely-textured soils, and rocky and gravelly soils are used infrequently (Hardy 1945). Descriptions of sites occupied in Idaho are lacking.

Individuals hibernate during winter months in burrows. Adults may estivate for part of the summer, and the combined estivation and hibernation period may last up to 9 months. This species eats primarily seeds and caches seed stores to survive long periods of inactivity.

ISSUES

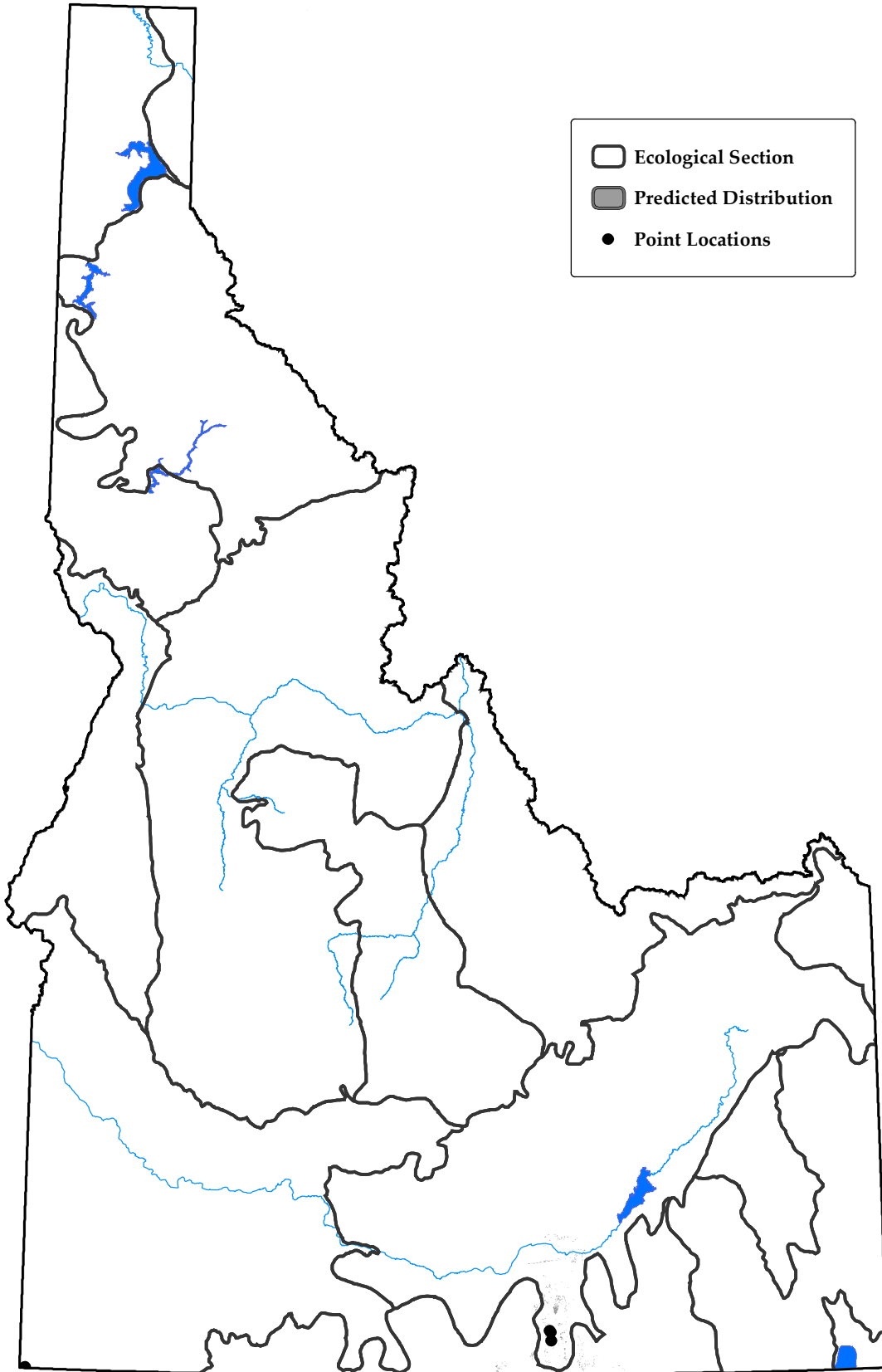
Few data are available to indicate the current distribution and status of populations. Habitat loss is the primary threat to this species. Invasive weeds and changes in plant composition and vegetative structure as a result of livestock or recreational use have the potential to negatively affect populations.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

Surveys are needed to determine distribution, population status, and habitat conditions. Habitat protection measures may be needed at occupied sites.

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Map created on September 22, 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).

