
Sheathed Slug *Zacoleus idahoensis*

Gastropoda — Stylommatophora — Arionidae

CONSERVATION STATUS / CLASSIFICATION

Rangewide: Vulnerable/Apparently secure (G3G4)
Statewide: Imperiled (S2)
ESA: No status
USFS: Region 1: No status; Region 4: No status
BLM: No status
IDFG: Not classified

BASIS FOR INCLUSION

Rare and declining rangewide.

TAXONOMY

No subspecies is recognized.

DISTRIBUTION AND ABUNDANCE

The sheathed slug occurs only in Idaho and Montana. Historically, populations occurred in the lower Salmon, Little Salmon, Selway, Lochsa, and Coeur d'Alene river drainages within Idaho. This species was considered to be widespread throughout these river systems at one time. Currently, they are thought to exist in scattered locations within their original range (Frest 1999).

POPULATION TREND

Information provided by Frest (1999) suggests that the species has declined. Specific data regarding current population trend is lacking, however.

HABITAT AND ECOLOGY

This species inhabits Douglas fir, spruce, and ponderosa pine forests that have a diverse understory of forbs and bryophytes. Habitat at higher-elevation is typically more open and includes a greater nonvascular plant component. Occupied sites are typically in moist valleys, gorges, ravines, and talus fields near permanent water (Frest 1999).

ISSUES

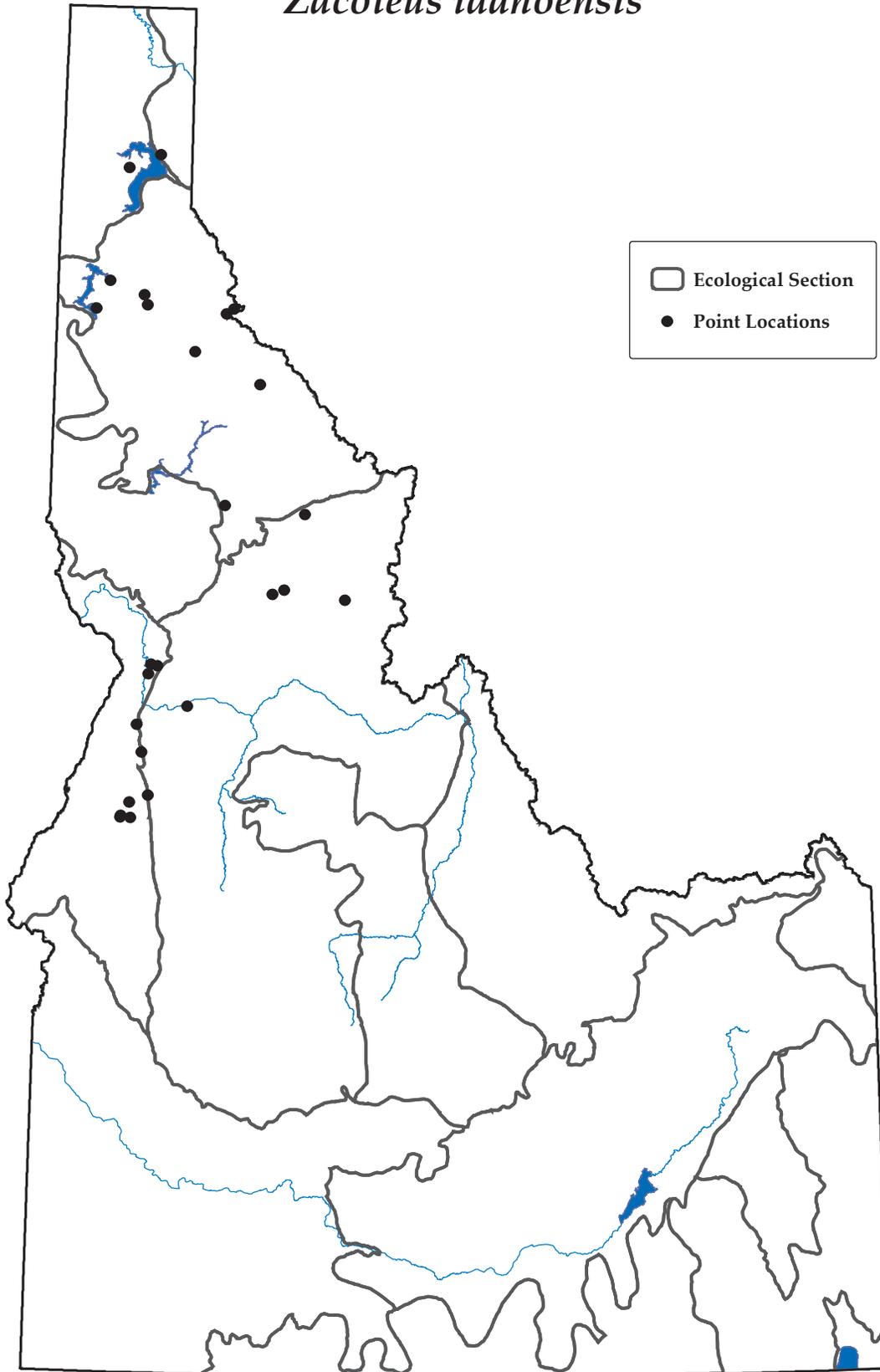
This species has a propensity for diverse, intact, and moist habitats and is absent from sites disturbed by timber harvest and livestock grazing (Frest 1999). Logging and grazing are prevalent activities throughout the known range and are potential threats (Frest 1999).

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

Surveys are needed to assess the current status of Idaho populations and to identify site-specific threats and conservation needs.

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

