
Whorled Mountainsnail

Oreohelix vortex

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

At one time the taxon *vortex* was thought to be a subspecies of the boulder pile mountainsnail (*O. jugalis*).

DISTRIBUTION AND ABUNDANCE

This terrestrial snail is endemic to a few localities in the lower Salmon River canyon.

POPULATION TREND

Frest (1999) considered this species to be declining, noting both a decrease in the extent of occupied habitat and population extirpations.

HABITAT AND ECOLOGY

This species occurs in association with basalt boulder fields and talus. Colonies occur in xeric habitat. Grasses and, occasionally, shrubs (e.g., netleaf hackberry and sagebrush) or forbs (e.g., balsamroot) are the most common plant associates.

ISSUES

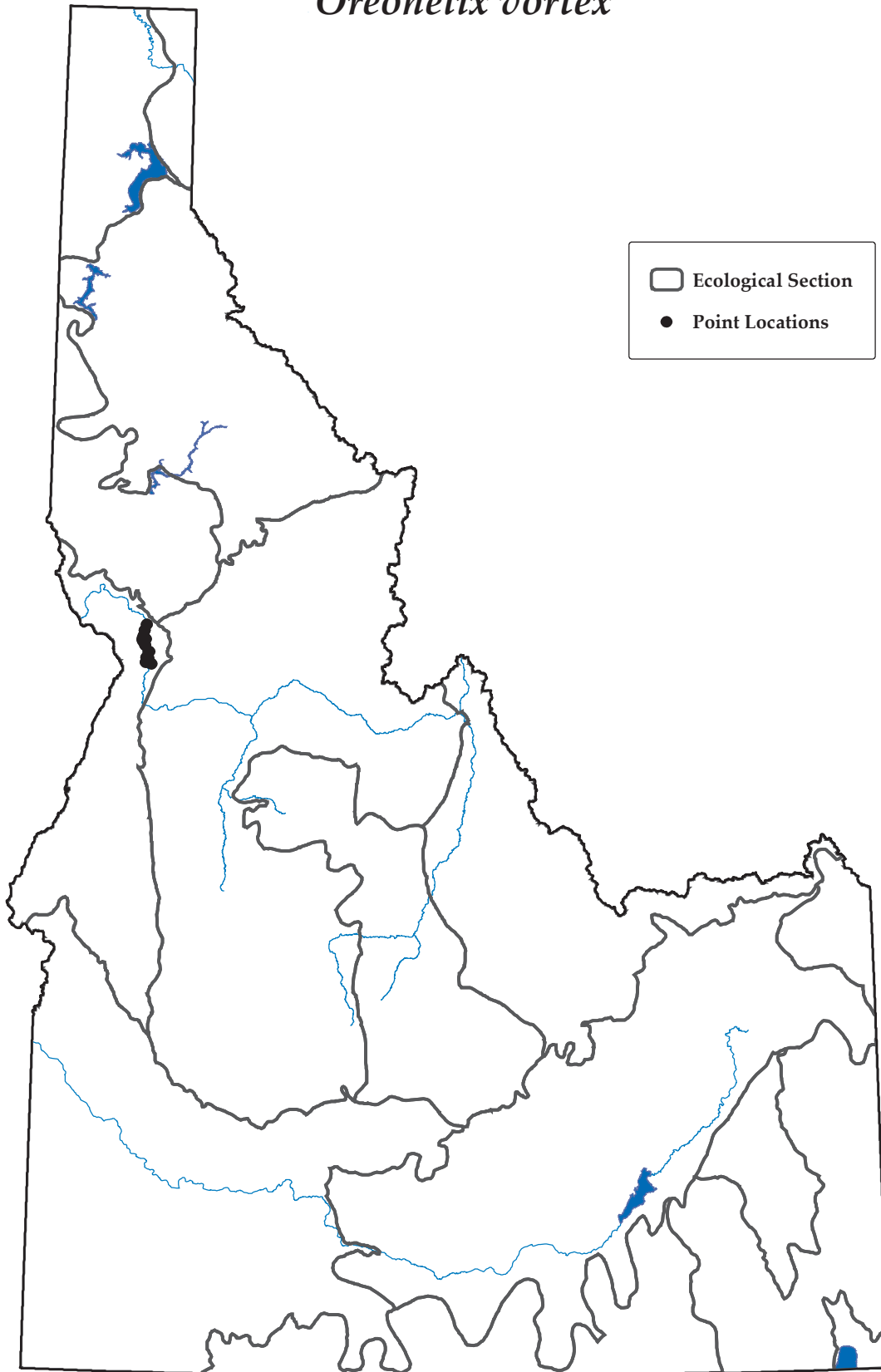
Habitat loss resulting from quarrying, road construction and maintenance, and livestock grazing are the primary threats to this species (Frest 1999).

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

Protection of extant sites from land use activities that result in surface disturbance is the most important conservation need for this species.

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0 20 40 80 Kilometers

0 20 40 80 Miles

2 August 2005

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

