
A Spur-throat Grasshopper

Melanoplus payettei

Insecta — Orthoptera — Acrididae

CONSERVATION STATUS / CLASSIFICATION

Rangewide: Imperiled/Apparently secure (G2G4)
Statewide: Imperiled (S2)
ESA: No status
USFS: Region 1: No status; Region 4: No status
BLM: No status
IDFG: Not classified

BASIS FOR INCLUSION

Lack of essential information pertaining to status..

TAXONOMY

Prior to the recognition of *payettei* as a distinct species (Hebard 1936), specimens had been identified as *Melanoplus indigenus*. Hebard (1937) described a subspecies, *M. payettei picropidzae*; the taxon *picropidzae*, which occurs in Montana, has since been elevated to species, and no subspecies is currently recognized in *M. payettei*.

DISTRIBUTION AND ABUNDANCE

This species occurs in Washington, Oregon, and Idaho. In Idaho, specimens have been reported from Latah, Washington, Idaho, and Valley counties. The species has not been collected since 1961.

POPULATION TREND

No data are available to suggest population trend.

HABITAT AND ECOLOGY

Individuals were encountered at 1 site “in the dry grasses, wild rose and other bushes in the Western Yellow Pine [i.e., ponderosa pine], Douglas Fir and Western Tamarack forest of the Canadian Zone” (Hebard 1936). At another locality, individuals were found in a “rather similar but less boreal environment on lower edge of Canadian Zone.” The available specimens represent an elevational range of about 760-1500 m.

ISSUES

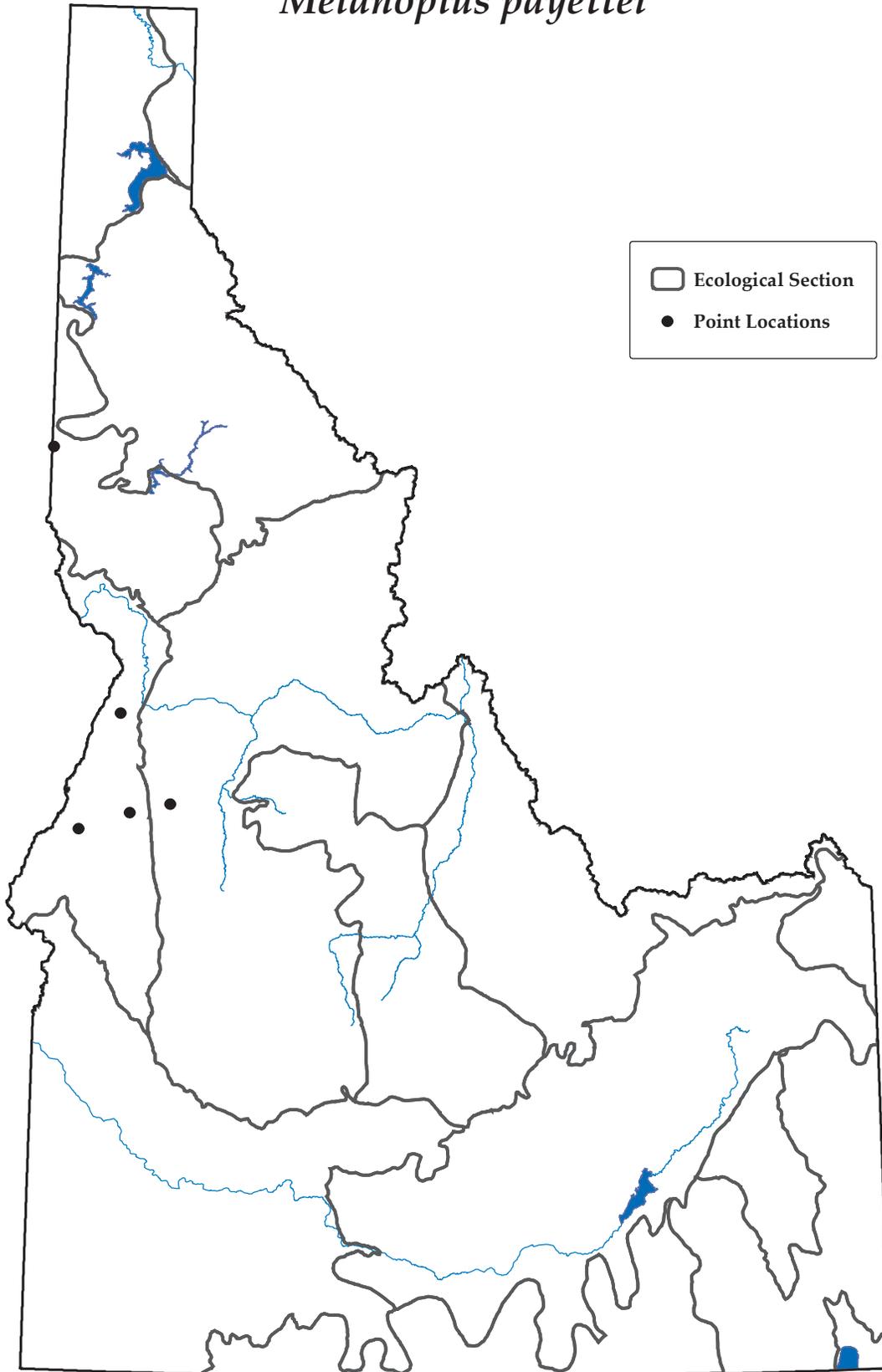
Specific threats to this taxon are unknown. Threats to grasshoppers include pesticides and habitat modification. Although conversion of native habitat to agricultural uses has benefited some grasshopper species, there are no data to suggest that agriculture has benefited this species.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

Surveys are needed to determine the current status of populations; no specimens have been collected since 1961.

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

