
California Myotis

Myotis californicus

Mammalia — Chiroptera — Vespertilionidae

CONSERVATION STATUS / CLASSIFICATION

Rangewide: Secure (G5)
Statewide: Imperiled (S2)
ESA: No status
USFS: Region 1: No status; Region 4: No status
BLM: Peripheral (Type 4)
IDFG: Protected nongame

BASIS FOR INCLUSION

Lack of essential information pertaining to status in Idaho.

TAXONOMY

The subspecies *M. c. californicus* occurs in Idaho.

DISTRIBUTION AND ABUNDANCE

This bat occurs in western North America from British Columbia south to Guatemala. The Idaho distribution is incompletely understood. Most authorities consider the species to occur in the northern and extreme western parts of the state, but scattered records suggest that the species may occur statewide. However, distinguishing this bat from a similar species, the western small-footed myotis, is notoriously difficult, which complicates the interpretation of records based on field identifications.

POPULATION TREND

Population trend is unknown.

HABITAT AND ECOLOGY

Little information is available to describe habitat affiliations or ecology of this species in Idaho. Dry conifer forest, sagebrush steppe, riparian, and juniper habitats have been reported. Roost types in Idaho are also poorly known. Mines and caves are reportedly used. Elsewhere, buildings and bridges are major roost types, and individuals are also found under loose tree bark. Characteristics of roosts used for maternity sites and hibernacula in the state are not known; elsewhere a maternity colony of 52 individuals was reported in a large diameter snag (Bringham et al. 1997).

ISSUES

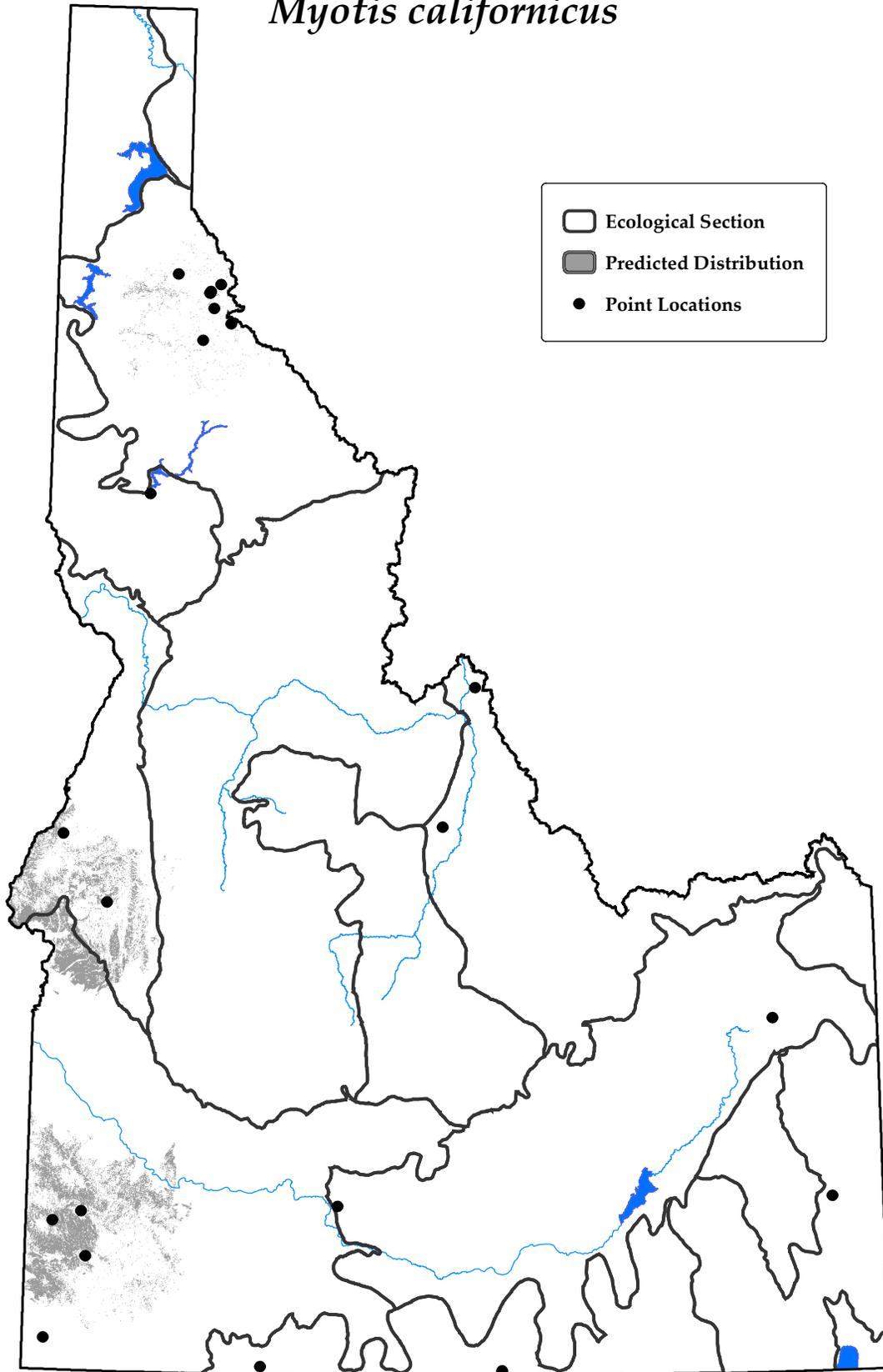
The distribution of this species in the state is incompletely documented, and few data indicate habitat needs. Mine reclamation is a threat to roosting habitat in some areas. Timber harvest practices that remove large diameter snags could be detrimental to maternity colonies and local populations (Bringham et al. 1997).

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

Efforts are needed to confirm the presence of populations in areas where this species has previously been reported by examining voucher specimens and by resurveying areas where no physical evidence supports prior identifications. Surveys for this species where mine closures occur are needed, and protection of identified roost sites should be considered. Surveys are needed throughout the state, particularly in areas where species composition is unknown and a knowledge of the bat fauna would have implications for resource management decisions.

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Map created on September 23, 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).

