
Dark Kangaroo Mouse

Microdipodops megacephalus

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 essential information pertaining to Idaho; habitat threats.

TAXONOMY

The subspecies *M. megacephalus atrelictus* occurs in Idaho and is endemic to the state.

DISTRIBUTION AND ABUNDANCE

This species occurs in Nevada, Utah, California, and Idaho. In Idaho the species occurs only in extreme southwest Owyhee County (Hafner 1985).

POPULATION TREND

No trend data are available for Idaho.

HABITAT AND ECOLOGY

This species is associated with gravelly or fine textured soils (Hafner 1985), frequently in vegetated dunes. Throughout the range, habitat consists of sparsely vegetated sites; characteristic vegetation includes sagebrush, black greasewood, shadscale, horsebrush, and rabbitbrush. This species eats primarily seeds, but insects are also frequently consumed. Individuals hibernate for approximately 5 months in burrows.

ISSUES

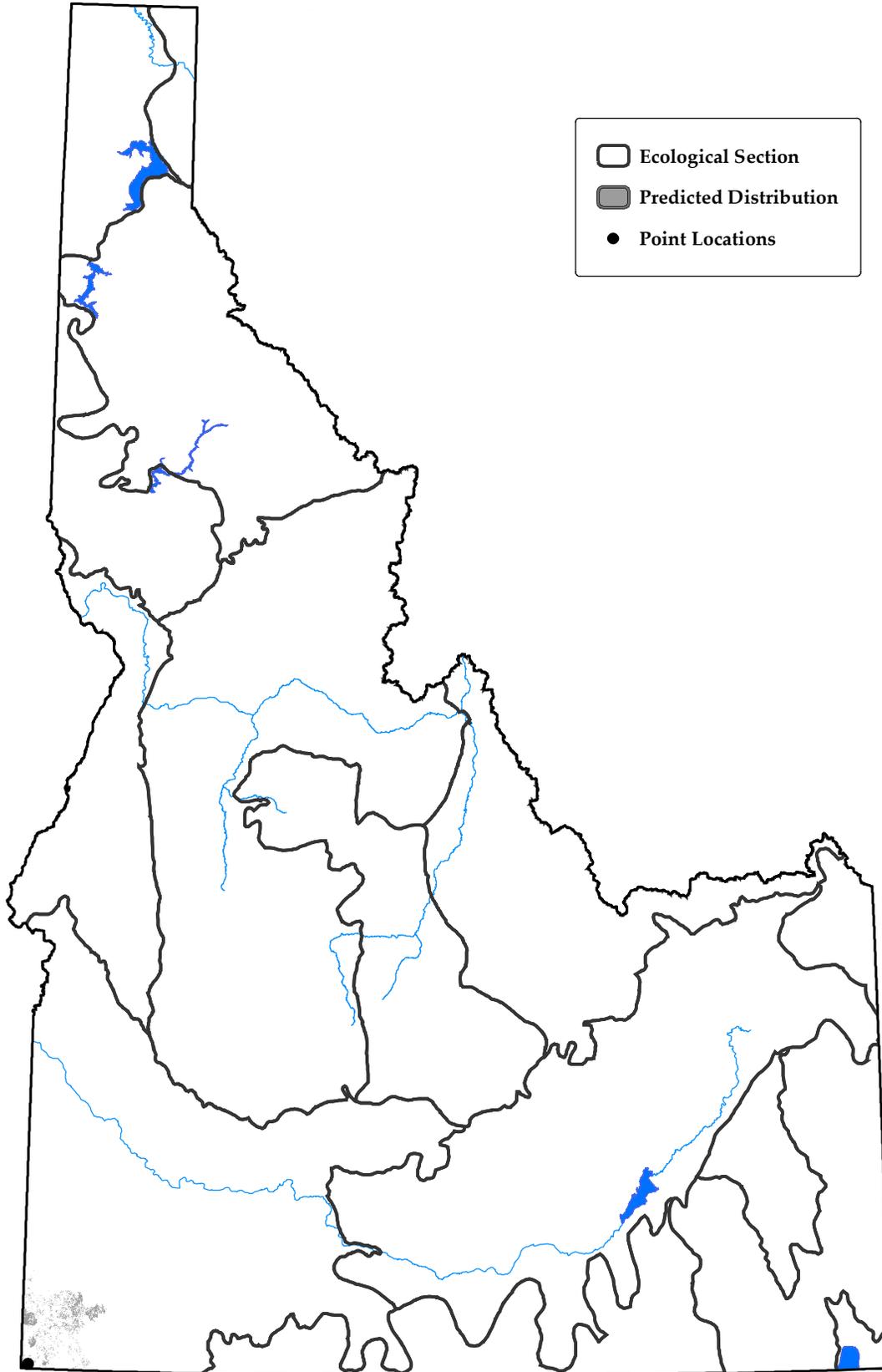
The distribution and current status of populations in Idaho are incompletely understood. Habitat loss is the primary threat to this species. Invasive weeds and changes in plant composition and vegetative structure as a result of livestock or recreational use have the potential to negatively affect populations.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

Surveys are needed to determine the current status of the population in southwest Owyhee County. Prospective surveys are also needed in suitable habitat across southern Idaho, particularly in southern Twin Falls County, to determine if the species occurs elsewhere. Habitat protection at occupied sites may be necessary.

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Map created on September 21, 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).

