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## Idaho Pocket Gopher

### *Thomomys idahoensis*

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Mammalia — Rodentia — Geomyidae

#### CONSERVATION STATUS / CLASSIFICATION

Rangewide: Apparently secure (G4)  
Statewide: Vulnerable (S3)  
ESA: No status  
USFS: Region 1: No status; Region 4: No status  
BLM: No status  
IDFG: Unprotected wildlife

#### BASIS FOR INCLUSION

Lack of essential information pertaining to status in Idaho; majority of rangewide distribution in Idaho.

#### TAXONOMY

This species was formerly considered to be a subspecies of northern pocket gopher (*T. talpoides*) (Verts and Carraway 1999). Two subspecies occur in Idaho. *T. idahoensis idahoensis* occurs in the Upper Snake River Plain of Idaho and *T. idahoensis pygmaeus* occurs in the extreme southeast corner of the state (Thaeler 1972).

#### DISTRIBUTION AND ABUNDANCE

The majority of the range of this species occurs in Idaho. The distribution includes eastern Idaho, southwestern Montana, western Wyoming, and northeastern Utah (Hafner et al 1998).

#### POPULATION TREND

Population trend is unknown.

#### HABITAT AND ECOLOGY

Little information is available regarding this species in Idaho. Populations are associated with shallow and rocky soils, primarily in shrub steppe, grassland, and subalpine meadow habitat. Individuals are active throughout the year.

#### ISSUES

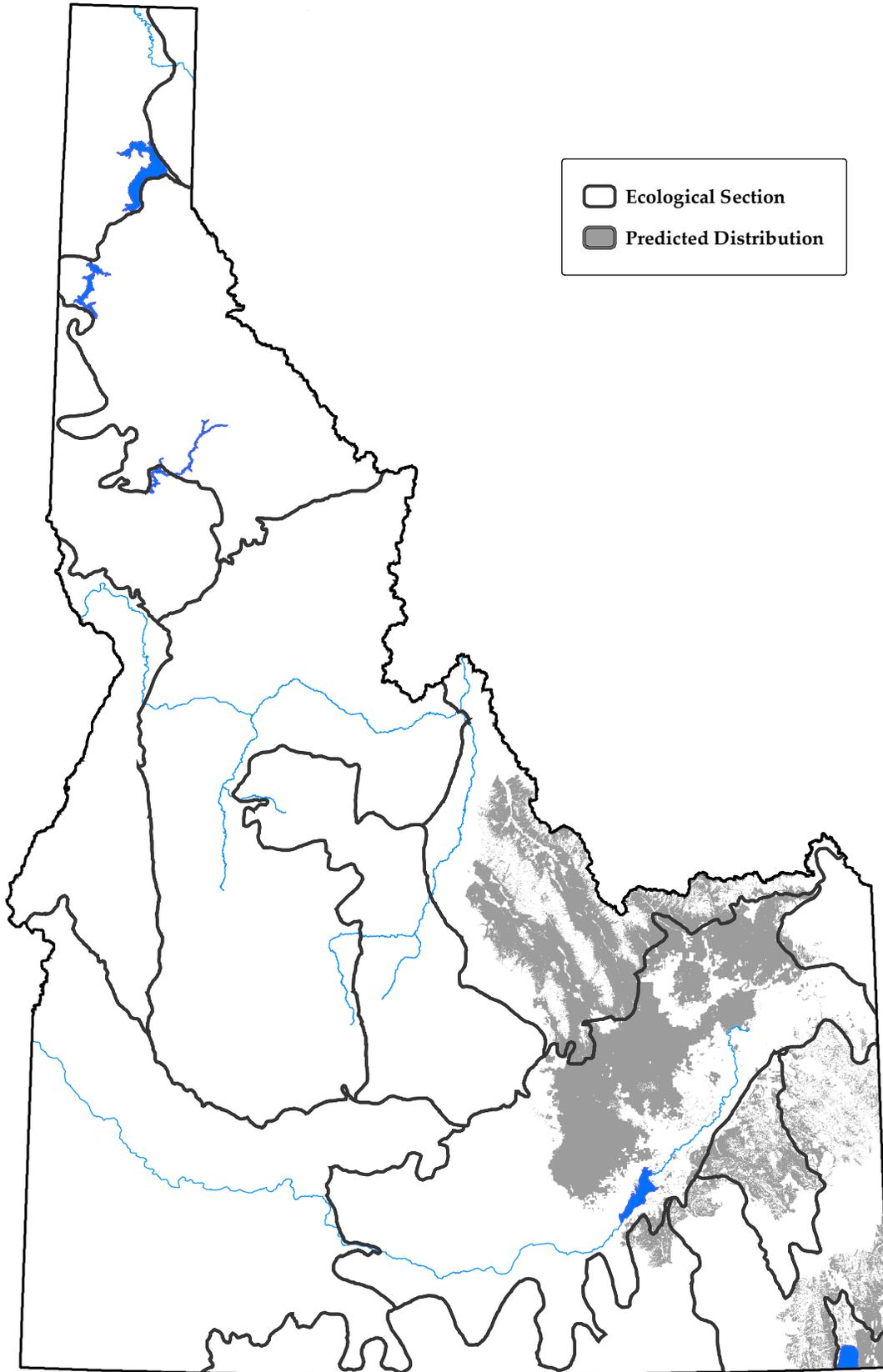
The distribution of populations is largely undocumented. No recent survey has been conducted, and current population status is unknown. Habitat loss is of concern, considering that much of the shrub steppe and grassland habitats in the range of this species has been affected by invasive plants and disturbance from various land uses.

#### RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

Surveys are needed to determine the distribution and current status of populations. Efforts are also needed to determine habitat conditions and to identify appropriate conservation actions.

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Map created on September 23, 2005 and prepared by Idaho Conservation Data Center. Sources: 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](http://www.wildlife.uidaho.edu/idgap/idgap_report.asp)).

