
Long-nosed Snake

Rhinocheilus lecontei

Amphibia — Caudata — Plethodontidae

CONSERVATION STATUS DESIGNATIONS

Rangewide: Secure (G5)
Statewide: Imperiled (S2)
ESA: No status
USFS: Region 1: No status; Region 4: No status
BLM: Regional/State imperiled (Type 3)
IDFG: Protected nongame

BASIS FOR INCLUSION

Disjunct populations and trend data are lacking; habitat threats.

TAXONOMY

There are 2 subspecies recognized in the U.S. The western long-nosed snake (*R. l. lecontei*) is found in Idaho.

DISTRIBUTION AND ABUNDANCE

The long-nosed snake occurs across western North America from Mexico north to Idaho. Idaho populations represent the northern-most range limit of the species and are disjunct from the nearest populations in central Utah and northwest Nevada. Within Idaho, populations occur at lower elevations along the Snake River in Canyon, Ada, Elmore, and Owyhee counties.

POPULATION TREND

Current population trend is unknown.

HABITAT AND ECOLOGY

This species occurs in xeric habitats, particularly in shrub-dominated areas having plentiful rodent burrows (e.g., Beck and Peterson 1995). Individuals are crepuscular or nocturnal during warm months, but may be active during the day during cooler periods. Rodent burrows and protected sites under rocks or other surface debris are used during periods of inactivity, including hibernation.

ISSUES

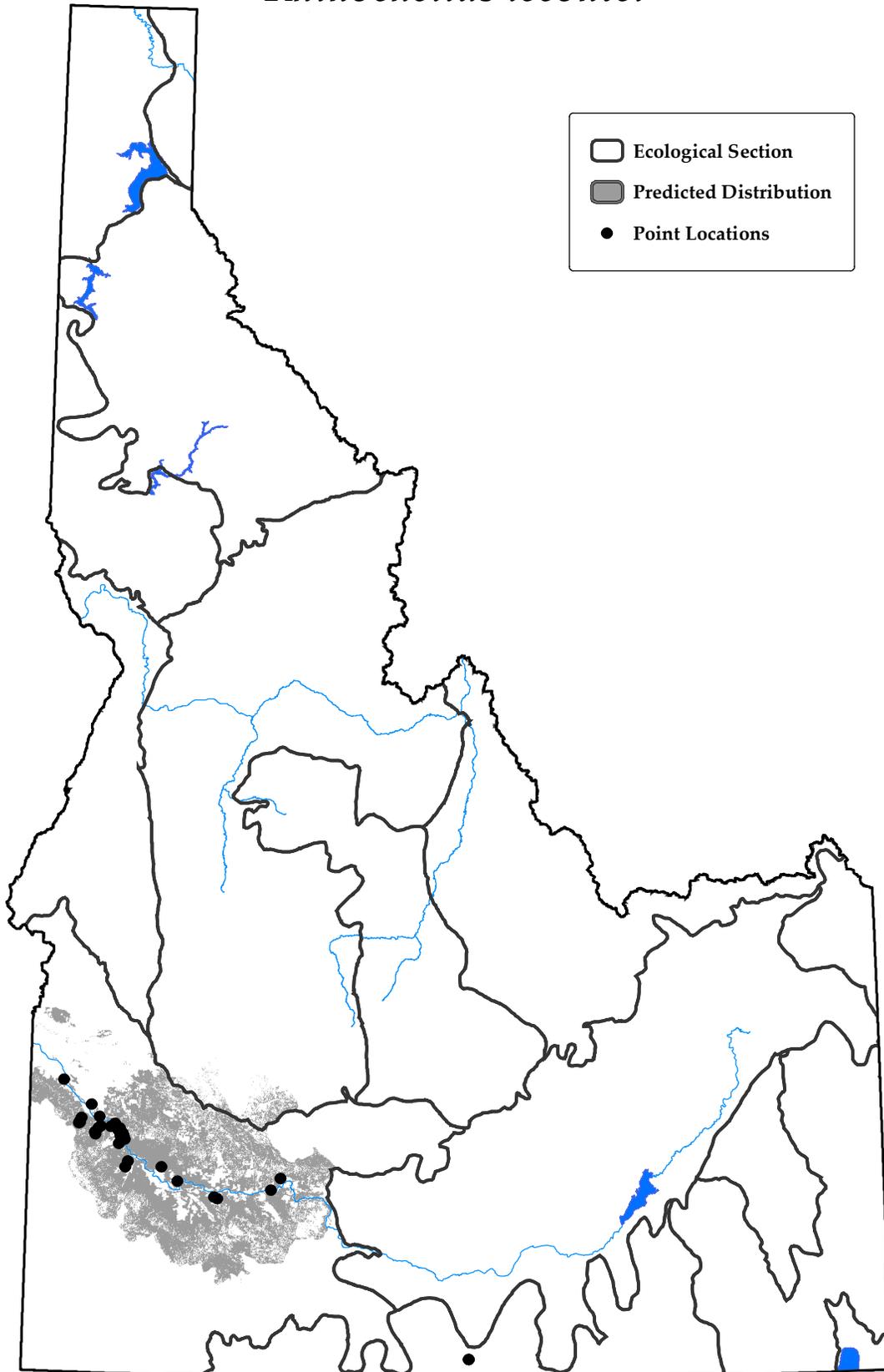
The conversion of native bunchgrass and shrub habitat to exotic grasslands or agriculture reduces the extent of available habitat for this species (Beck and Peterson 1995). Rock quarrying, off-road vehicle use, and other activities causing surface disturbance also affect habitat quality. In some areas within the range, conversion of native habitat to urban habitat is also of importance.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

A monitoring program is needed to ascertain population trends, distribution, and abundances. Information on ecology and threats is also essential to the conservation of this species. Habitat protection and maintenance of corridors between subpopulations is necessary.

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Map created on September 19, 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).

