
Merriam's Shrew

Sorex merriami

Mammalia — Insectivora — Soricidae

CONSERVATION STATUS / CLASSIFICATION

Rangewide: Secure (G5)
Statewide: Imperiled (S2)
ESA: No status
USFS: Region 1: No status; Region 4: No status
BLM: No status
IDFG: Unprotected wildlife

BASIS FOR INCLUSION

Limited distribution and abundance in Idaho.

TAXONOMY

No subspecies are currently recognized.

DISTRIBUTION AND ABUNDANCE

Merriam's shrew occurs in scattered localities in the northern Great Plains, Rocky Mountains, and intermountain west of the U. S. The species is known to occur in scattered localities across Idaho (e.g., Mullican 1986).

POPULATION TREND

This species is rarely encountered, and no information is available to suggest population trend.

HABITAT AND ECOLOGY

Populations occur primarily in areas dominated by xeric shrubs and grasses. Habitats include sagebrush steppe and grassy openings in dry coniferous forest habitat. This species is associated with rodent runways in areas having dense growth of grasses and forbs.

ISSUES

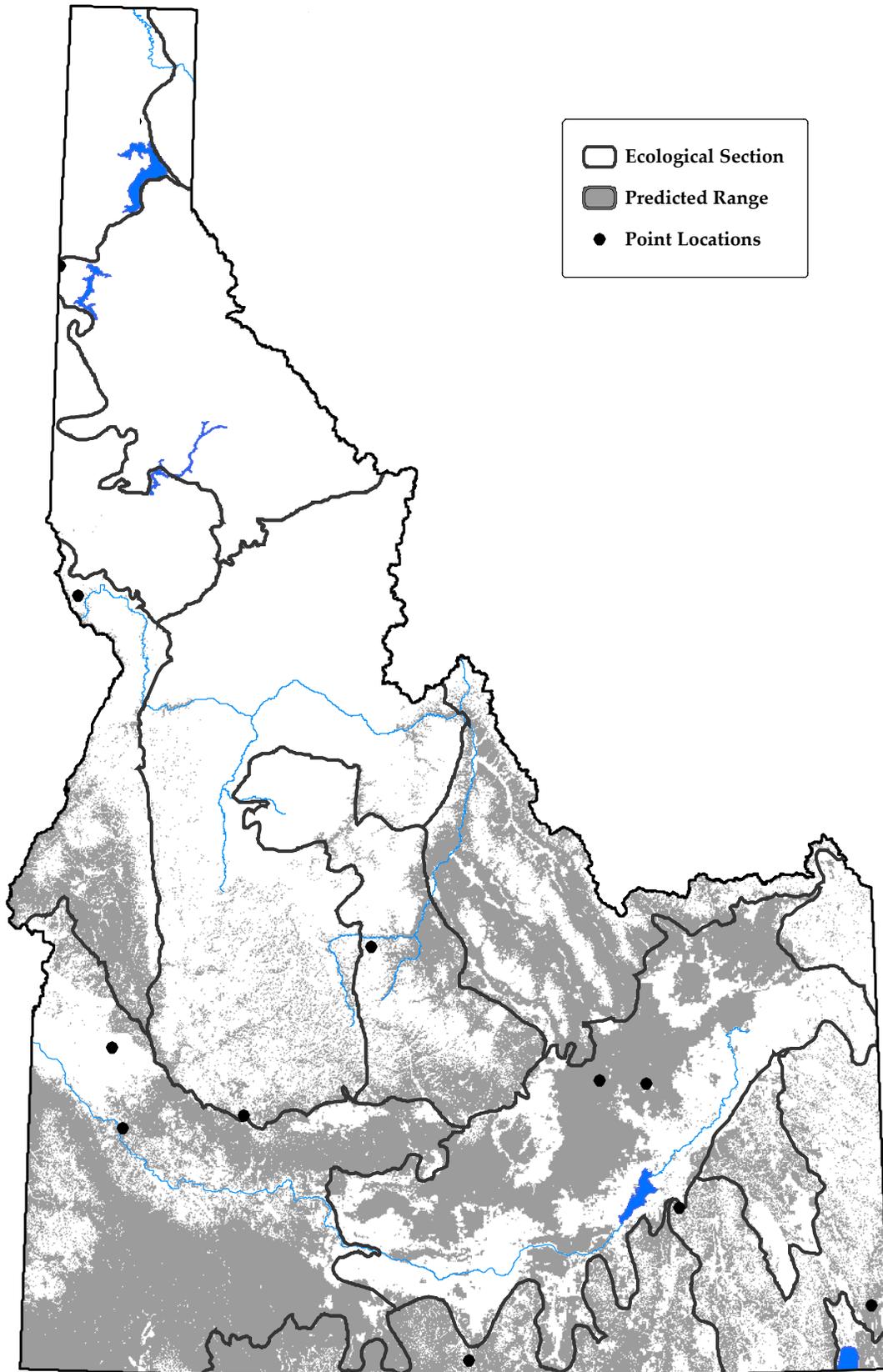
The distribution and status of populations are poorly understood. Livestock grazing has been suggested as a threat to populations (Durrant and Lee 1955); livestock can cause soil compaction, litter layer reduction, and changes in vegetation structure and composition.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

Surveys are needed to determine the distribution, current status, and habitat associations of populations.

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Map created on September 28, 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).

