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## **Pristine Pyrg** *Pristinicola hemphilli*

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Gastropoda — Neotaenioglossa — Hydrobiidae

### **CONSERVATION STATUS / CLASSIFICATION**

Rangewide: Vulnerable (G3)  
Statewide: Imperiled (S2)  
ESA: No status  
USFS: Region 1: No status; Region 4: No status  
BLM: No status  
IDFG: Not classified

### **BASIS FOR INCLUSION**

Habitat degradation.

### **TAXONOMY**

This species was reclassified as *Pristinicola hemphilli* from *Bythinella hemphilli* (Hershler et al. 1994). No subspecies are recognized.

### **DISTRIBUTION AND ABUNDANCE**

The pristine pyrg has been reported to occur in California, Oregon, Washington, Montana, and Idaho. In Idaho, populations occur in portions of the lower Snake and lower Salmon river drainages (Frest 1999).

### **POPULATION TREND**

No population trend data are available.

### **HABITAT AND ECOLOGY**

This aquatic snail typically inhabits small springs or seeps and occasionally larger springs, spring outflow channels, and spring-influenced stream reaches. Springs are usually in semiarid sagebrush-dominated habitat with basalt substrates, but some sites are in dense Douglas fir forests. Habitat is characterized by cobble substrates, slow to moderate flows, and very shallow, cold, clear water. Sites are relatively undisturbed (Frest and Johannes 1997).

### **ISSUES**

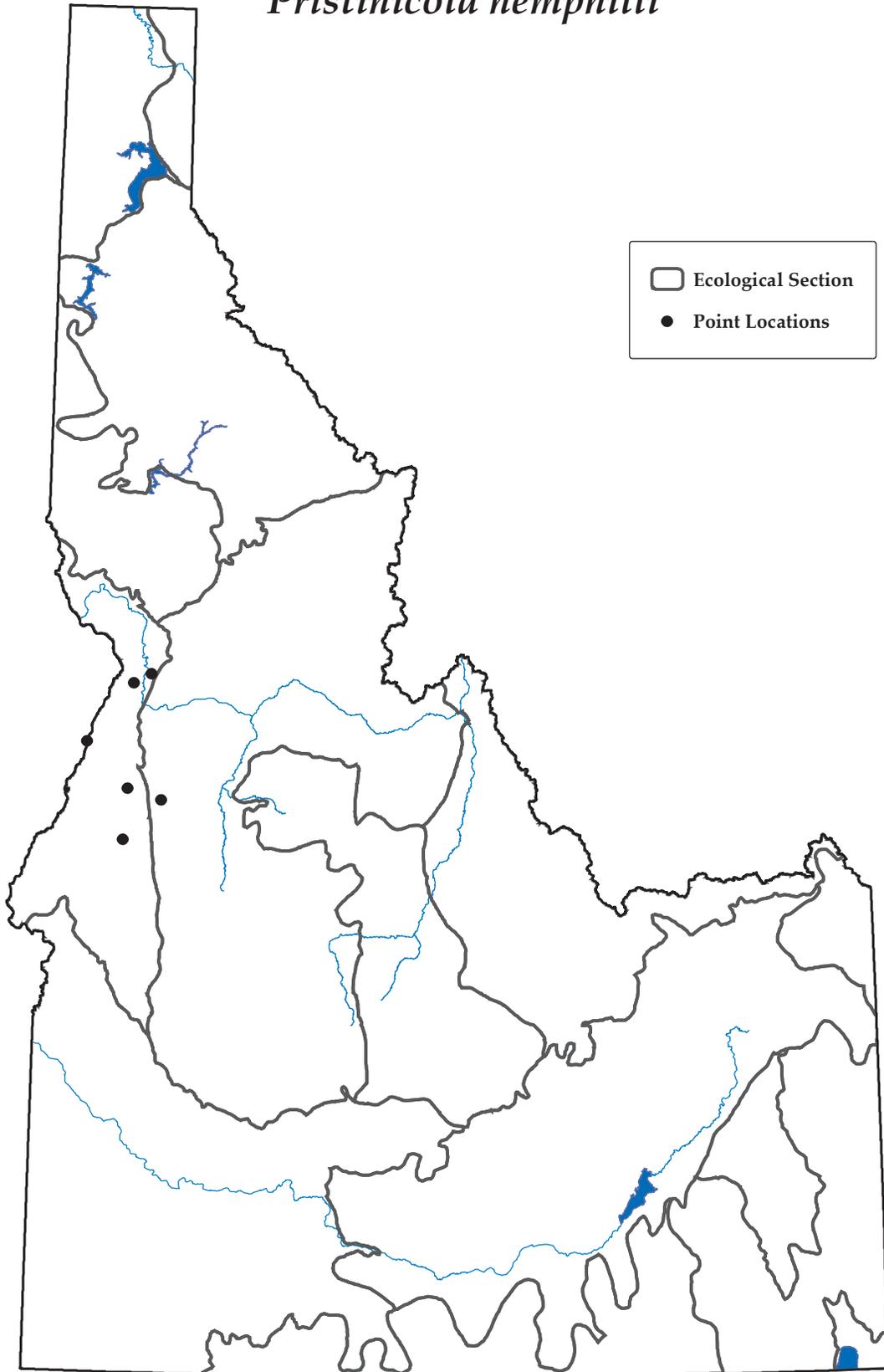
Habitat loss is the primary threat to the species. According to Frest and Johannes (1997) grazing is a prevalent cause of habitat degradation. Other causes include road construction and maintenance, damming and water diversion, and campground construction. Increased nutrient load in groundwater is also a potential threat to some populations (Frest 1999).

**RECOMMENDED ACTIONS**

Information regarding the distribution and status of populations is limited. Additional surveys are needed to clarify the location and extent of populations and to identify conservation priorities for this species.

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*Pristinicola hemphilli*



2 August 2005  
Point data are from Idaho Conservation Data Center,  
Idaho Department of Fish and Game.

