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# Woodhouse's Toad

## *Bufo woodhousii*

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Amphibia — Anura — Bufonidae

### CONSERVATION STATUS / CLASSIFICATION

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

Restricted, isolated and disjunct populations.

### TAXONOMY

The subspecies *Bufo woodhousii woodhousii* occurs in Idaho.

### DISTRIBUTION AND ABUNDANCE

Woodhouse's toad occurs from northern Mexico north through much of the southwestern and central U.S. The northwestern part of the range comprises isolated, disjunct populations in lower-elevation parts of the Columbia and Snake river drainages. Idaho populations occur at a few locations along the western Snake River Plain from approximately Bruneau to Weiser. These populations are isolated from those occurring in Nevada and Utah by more than 230 km. A single historical record from Lewiston suggests that populations along the upper Columbia River of Oregon and Washington formerly extended to the lower reach of the Snake River.

The species is rarely encountered within occupied habitat, and most of the recorded observations are historical.

### POPULATION TREND

Insufficient data exist to suggest a population trend in southern Idaho. The lack of recent records from the vicinity of Lewiston suggests that the species no longer occurs in this part of the Idaho range.

### HABITAT AND ECOLOGY

Populations occur primarily in moderately xeric to somewhat mesic grassland and shrubland environments, often in washes or floodplains or in riparian habitat. Breeding takes place in shallow water bodies, sometimes in temporary or seasonal pools. The breeding season is variable, and the timing of breeding depends in part on water availability and sometimes in response to rain events. Toads burrow to avoid inhospitable conditions and often occur where soils are sandy or loose.

## **ISSUES**

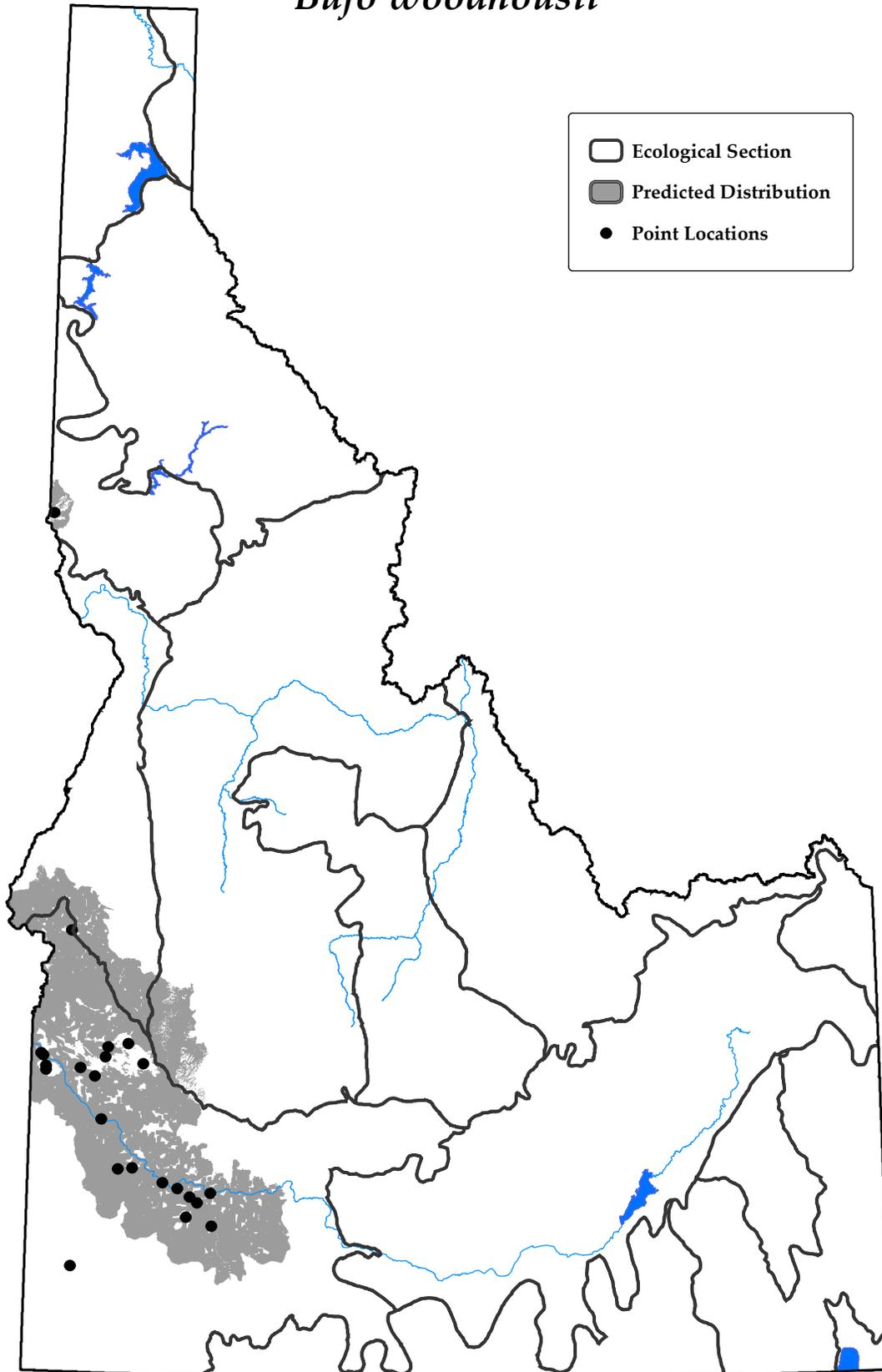
Woodhouse's toad populations are vulnerable to the loss or degradation of habitat. Water impoundment and diversion are particularly important because breeding success is dependent on the presence and persistence of surface water throughout the breeding and larval periods. Habitat conversion resulting from urban and agricultural development is also a substantial threat to some populations. Pollution arising from agricultural runoff is a potential concern. Taylor et al. (1999) found that Woodhouse's toads exposed to low levels of malathion were susceptible to fatal infections from *Aeromonas hydrophila*, the bacterium causing red-leg disease.

## **RECOMMENDED ACTIONS**

Comprehensive surveys throughout the Idaho range of this species are needed to assess distribution, and a monitoring program is needed to evaluate population trend. Consideration of this species in water development projects and in riparian and wetland habitat preservation and restoration activities is also needed.

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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](http://www.wildlife.uidaho.edu/idgap/idgap_report.asp)).

