Coarse Rams-horn (*Planorbella binneyi*)

Species Status Statement.

Distribution

Coarse rams-horn occurs in the western United States and Canada. There are 13 historic localities in Utah, with one in Washington County, one in Piute County, and the remainder in Davis, Salt Lake, and Utah counties (Chamberlain and Jones 1929),. There is also one disputed record from Daggett County (Chamberlain and Roscoe 1948; Oliver and Bosworth 1999).

Table 1. Utah counties historically occupied by this species. There are no recent observations to verify the presence of this species in these counties.

Coarse Rams-horn
DAGGETT
DAVIS
PIUTE
SALT LAKE
UTAH
WASHINGTON

Abundance and Trends

Information is lacking in this regard. This species was once the most abundant snail in Utah Lake, but it no longer occurs there. Most surveys for this species date back to the 1900s. For Utah, Jones (1940) listed five collection lots totaling 35 specimens, as well as three lots of several individuals. However, it is unclear whether the specimens reported by Jones were alive or dead when collected.

Statement of Habitat Needs and Threats to the Species.

Habitat Needs

Coarse rams-horn is a freshwater snail. Surveyors have mainly described its habitat as lakes, but they have also collected it in a single creek, a canal, and a pond (Chamberlain and Jones 1929). Chamberlain and Jones (1929) commented that they live on the bottom of lakes in stagnant water.

Threats to the Species

Specific statewide threats remain unknown and unidentified for this species. However, human activities that fragment habitats, alter banks, deposit sediment, or degrade water quality are plausible threats in localized situations. Its disappearance from Utah Lake and possibly other aquatic areas in north central Utah suggest that alteration, degradation, and loss of wetlands are some of the most important threats to coarse rams-horn (Oliver and Bosworth 1999).

Table 2. Summary of a Utah threat assessment and prioritization completed in 2014. This assessment applies to the species' entire distribution within Utah. For species that also occur elsewhere, this assessment applies only to the portion of their distribution within Utah. The full threat assessment provides more information including lower-ranked threats, crucial data gaps, methods, and definitions (UDWR 2015; Salafsky et al. 2008).

Coarse Rams-horn
No Identified Threats - Data Gaps Only

Rationale for Designation.

Coarse rams-horn remains very poorly known in Utah, and the lack of applicable information about the species is an impediment to threat assessment and management. In general, direct human pressures, and climate change, presently threaten many aquatic systems in Utah, and managers and scientists expect these issues to intensify. In order to develop adequate understanding of the distribution and status of this species in Utah, managers need to conduct occasional surveys, and monitor potential threats. These activities will help prevent the possibility of Endangered Species Act listing of this species.

Economic Impacts of Sensitive Species Designation.

Sensitive species designation is intended to facilitate management of this species, which is required to prevent Endangered Species Act listing and lessen related economic impacts. An ESA listing of coarse rams-horn would have unknown economic impacts for Utah, especially since there are no recent collections of this species. Designated Sensitive Species with no identified threats, only data gaps, will be researched until concerns are allayed, or specific threats are identified for management. In the absence of specific threats to manage, generic measures to protect lake and river habitats are recommended.

Literature Cited.

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