

Lyrate Mountainsnail (*Oreohelix haydeni*)**Species Status Statement.**Distribution

This terrestrial snail occurs in most of the Rocky Mountain states. In Utah, its currently understood distribution consists of approximately 21 colonies in the north-central part of the state. Determining whether some clustered localities are separate colonies, or large continuous colonies, will require additional fieldwork (Oliver and Bosworth 1999).

Table 1. Utah counties currently occupied by this species.

Lyrate Mountainsnail
BOX ELDER
CACHE
MORGAN
RICH

Abundance and Trends

Information is very limited in this regard. Several colonies have been reported as declining, and no efforts have been made recently to verify their existence (Oliver and Bosworth 1999). Clarke (1993) conducted surveys at the type locality for the type race, *haydeni*, and also at the type locality for the race *corrugata*. At the former locality, he estimated a population of 1 million snails within the 60-acre colony despite the fact that he only recorded 10 live *haydeni* snails on his field sheets. Clarke did not explain how he obtained this estimate. At the type locality for *corrugata*, Clarke estimated the population to contain between 1 million and 10 million snails. However, again he did not explain how this estimate was calculated. This estimate also appears to be questionable, as only six live snails were recorded after searching 100 acres (Oliver and Bosworth 1999).

Statement of Habitat Needs and Threats to the Species.Habitat Needs

Similar to other members of the genus *Oreohelix*, lyrate mountainsnail is often associated with limestone talus and outcrops, sometimes with minimal tree canopy cover and typically on steep south-facing slopes. Primary canopy species include Douglas fir, ponderosa pine and mountain maple. Secondary canopy cover may include aspen, ninebark and serviceberry. Live snails are mostly present under rocks, and in duff or soil accumulations under rocks (Hendricks 2012).

Threats to the Species

Since this species is endemic to a handful of small areas, its population is susceptible to catastrophic events and human disturbance. Managers have not yet completed a species-specific threat assessment for Utah.

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).

Lyrate Mountainsnail
No Identified Threats - Data Gaps Only

Rationale for Designation.

The limited distribution of lyrate mountainsnail makes its population susceptible to catastrophic events and human activities. In order to improve the 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 lyrate mountainsnail has unknown economic impacts for northern Utah. 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 mountain canyon habitat are recommended.

Literature Cited.

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