

## Rocky Mountain Dusksnail (*Colligyrus greggi*)

### **Species Status Statement.**

#### Distribution

This freshwater snail lives in springs in the upper Snake River Basin and the northeastern Great Basin, in Idaho, Utah, and Wyoming (Hershler 1999). In Utah, scientific collectors have found it in only two springs, both in Cache County (Hershler 1995). Utah managers are currently developing an inventory and classification of springs in the state. This information will be useful in designing inventory surveys for a diversity of aquatic wildlife species.

Table 1. Utah counties currently occupied by this species.

Rocky Mountain Dusksnail
CACHE

#### Abundance and Trends

The population status of this snail is currently unclear. In both springs where it was found in Cache County, collectors described it as common, but a quantitative assessment of the species' abundance is not available (Hershler 1995; Oliver and Bosworth 1999).

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

#### Habitat Needs

Hershler (1995) reported that this snail was found in rheocrenes (springs flowing from the ground as streams). One of the springs was 5° C; the other spring was 8° C with conductivity of 290 micromhos/cm (Hershler 1995).

#### Threats to the Species

Due to its extremely limited known distribution, Rocky Mountain dusksnail is vulnerable to state extirpation. It is probably susceptible to disturbances in and around the springs. Hershler (1995) noted that there was moderate recreational disturbance at both springs during the survey.

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).

<b>Rocky Mountain Dusksnail</b>
<b>Medium</b>
Small Isolated Populations

### **Rationale for Designation.**

The limited distribution of Rocky Mountain dusksnail in Utah makes it susceptible to degradation or destruction of its habitat. In order to maintain 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 Rocky Mountain dusksnail would impact management and development of water resources in Cache County. There would also be increased costs of regulatory compliance for many land-use decisions and mitigation costs.

### **Literature Cited.**

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- Oliver, G.V. and W.R. Bosworth. 1999. Rare, imperiled, and recently extinct or extirpated mollusks of Utah: a literature review. Report to the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, Publication Number 99- 29. Salt Lake City, Utah, USA.
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