

Rustic Ambersnail (*Succinea rusticana*)

Species Status Statement.

Distribution

This snail is native to the western United States. The currently understood distribution of rustic ambersnail in Utah is limited to three localities in three counties in north-central Utah (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.

Rustic Ambersnail
CACHE
MORGAN
SALT LAKE

Abundance and Trends

Information is exceptionally limited in this regard. The abundance and population trend of rustic ambersnail are unknown. The only report of the species in Utah that mentions any numbers was that of Woolstenhulme (1942). He reported "3 specimens".

Statement of Habitat Needs and Threats to the Species.

Habitat Needs

Rustic ambersnail lives in riparian areas near rivers, streams, lakes, bogs and springs (Hendricks 2012).

Threats to the Species

Specific threats to this species in Utah remain unknown. However, because the species occupies wet sites and may even be semi-aquatic, dewatering (e.g. through diversions of streams for irrigation and other purposes), alteration of aquatic habitats (e.g. damming of streams), and degradation of water quality (e.g. pollution) may be threats (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).

Rustic Ambersnail
No Identified Threats - Data Gaps Only

Rationale for Designation.

Range, abundance, habitat and status remain poorly understood for rustic ambersnail in Utah. However, in general the availability and quality of habitats occupied by this species are under continued threat. 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 improve understanding of the distribution and status of this species in Utah, managers need to conduct occasional surveys, and monitor and manage 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 rustic ambersnail 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 wetlands are recommended.

Literature Cited.

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