Widelip Pondsnail (*Stagnicola traski*)

Species Status Statement.

Distribution

This freshwater snail is native to the western United States. Henderson and Daniels (1917), the only authors to have reported finding this species in Utah, provided two locality records. Both are in north-central Utah. One is below the mouth of Ogden Canyon in Weber County, and the other is on the west side of Garfield, now an abandoned mining town, located a few miles west of Magna in Salt Lake County.

However, there remains some doubt regarding whether this species actually occurs (or ever occurred) in Utah. According to Chamberlin and Jones (1929): "The occurrence of typical *traski* in Utah is doubtful. ... Henderson now refers specimens ... listed on authority of himself and Daniels to *nuttalliana*." Despite this statement, almost 20 years later, Chamberlin and Roscoe (1948) continued to list *Stagnicola traski* as occurring in Utah and did not list *Stagnicola nuttalliana*, the latter of which is no longer a recognized species. Therefore, it appears that Chamberlin reversed his earlier opinion and ultimately accepted the Henderson and Daniels (1917) Utah records of *Stagnicola traski* (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.

Widelip Pondsnail
SALT LAKE
WEBER

Abundance and Trends

Information is exceptionally limited in this regard. No information regarding abundance or population trends of this species in Utah has been reported (Oliver and Bosworth 1999).

Statement of Habitat Needs and Threats to the Species.

Habitat Needs

Original collectors reported the widelip pondsnail from "a small, sluggish stream" and from "sloughs" in Utah (Oliver and Bosworth 1999). Cordeiro and Perez (2018) noted that some of the wetland habitats that are very important to the species elsewhere in its range include rivers, streams, creeks, lakes, marshes and ponds.

Threats to the Species

One of the reported Utah localities, the mouth of Ogden Canyon, is in an area that has been and continues to be developed. The other reported locality is very near a century-old smelter that is still used to process copper ore; copper is a noted hazard to snails. Destruction, alteration, and degradation of aquatic ecosystems in north-central Utah where the species occurs would likely impact populations (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).

Widelip Pondsnail
No Identified Threats - Data Gaps Only

Rationale for Designation.

There has been no confirmation, since the original accounts described above, that widelip pondsnail does or ever did in fact occur in Utah. If this species does occur in Utah, then it appears to have an extremely limited distribution, which would make it susceptible to natural catastrophes and human activities. 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 widelip pondsnail 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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