

Southern Tightcoil (*Ogaridiscus subrupicola*)

Species Status Statement.

Distribution

As currently understood, the distribution of this terrestrial snail is limited to one site in each of three states: Oregon, Idaho (Frest and Johannes 1995), and Utah. The Utah population of southern tightcoil lives in a small cave in Tooele County, an ecological setting that is unique among Utah's mollusks (Chamberlin and Jones 1929; 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.

Southern Tightcoil
TOOELE

Abundance and Trends

The population status of this species is unclear, as all available distribution information dates from the early 1900s. This species was apparently rare and sparsely distributed within the cave at that time, but cave disturbance was evidently high from frequent recreational use (Chamberlin and Jones 1929). No quantitative assessments of the species' abundance exist.

Statement of Habitat Needs and Threats to the Species.

Habitat Needs

In Oregon and Idaho, this species occurs in rocky, terrestrial habitats (Frest and Johannes 1995). The Oregon site is a north-facing cliff face at 2000 feet elevation, in an open ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir forest (Frest and Johannes 1995). The Idaho site is also in an open ponderosa pine forest. A description of the cave habitat used by the Utah population is not available (Oliver and Bosworth 1999).

Threats to the Species

The restricted distribution of this species in Utah makes its single known population susceptible to catastrophic events and human disturbance of its habitat. Any change to the cave environment has the potential to jeopardize the viability of this population. The cave is located in proximity to large-scale mining operations, making it vulnerable to destruction or alteration of cave habitat via mining activities. Recreational use of the cave could also degrade the habitat.

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).

Southern Tightcoil
Very High
Hardrock Minerals
Small Isolated Populations

Rationale for Designation.

The limited distribution of southern tightcoil in Utah makes it susceptible to threats related to mining and recreational activities. In order to develop a better 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 southern tightcoil would have unknown economic impacts for Utah, especially since there are no recent collections of this species.

Literature Cited.

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