

Huachuca Springsnail
Pyrgulopsis thompsoni

STATUS: Candidate (54 FR 554, January 6, 1989)

SPECIES DESCRIPTION: The Huachuca springsnail is a small (1.7 - 3.2 mm (0.05-0.13 inch) tall) aquatic snail with three to five somewhat convex whorls on the shell. Identification must be verified by characteristics of reproductive organs.

HABITAT: Springs or cienegas at 1,372 to 1,829 meters (4,500 to 7,200 feet) elevation in southeastern Arizona and adjacent portions of Sonora, Mexico. Springs and cienegas inhabited by the snail are typically marshy areas characterized by various aquatic and emergent plant species that occur within plains grassland, oak and pine-oak woodlands, and coniferous forest vegetation communities. The species is typically found in the shallower areas of springs or cienegas, often in rocky seeps at the spring source.

RANGE: The species is believed to occur in up to 16 sites in the upper San Pedro River drainage (Huachuca Mountains, Canelo Hills, San Rafael Valley - Arizona/Sonora), and the upper Santa Cruz River drainage (Sonoita Creek drainage, San Rafael Valley, Santa Cruz River drainage - Sonora). These include 14 sites in Cochise and Santa Cruz counties, and 2 sites in Sonora.

REASONS FOR DECLINE / VULNERABILITY: Loss or degradation of spring and cienega habitat due to overgrazing, timber harvest, altered fire regimes, drought, mining, impoundments, water developments, groundwater withdrawal, recreation, and catastrophic fire resulting from human-caused alterations of fire regimes. Extirpation of a population could occur as a result of major storms, drought, fire, or other forms of environmental stochasticity or anthropogenic stressors. Because populations are isolated, once extirpated, sites are unlikely to be recolonized without active management. Small populations are also subject to genetic deterioration and demographic variability, which increases the likelihood of extinction when coupled with existing threats.

LAND MANAGEMENT / OWNERSHIP: In the United States, 55 percent Federal (Fort Huachuca and Coronado National Forest) and 45 percent private. In Mexico, 100 percent private.

NOTES: Published literature has indicated significant genetic divergence between populations of this species. Detailed information can be found in the Species Assessment Form posted on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Environmental Conservation Online System at http://ecos.fws.gov/docs/candforms_pdf/r2/G05C_I01.pdf.