



Conservation Agreement and Strategy for Springsnails in Nevada and Utah



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Abstract - There is an increasing concern and need for the conservation of springsnails and the unique spring and springbrook habitats on which they depend. Nationwide, several of these species have been listed as endangered or threatened under provisions of the Endangered Species Act. These species can be particularly susceptible to localized threats such as water diversion, invasive species, development, or trampling by ungulates. In 2017, multiple agencies in Nevada and Utah completed a Conservation Agreement for springsnails. The corresponding Strategy was completed in 2020. The conservation actions described in the Strategy are expected to lead to the protection and enhancement of all springsnails and their associated habitats in Nevada and Utah, and may be applicable to springsnail conservation in other western states. Conservation Agreements and Strategies have been important conservation tools for Nevada and Utah for more than 20 years and, in many cases, have resulted in precluding the need to list at-risk species.

CONSERVATION GOAL OF THE AGREEMENT

To ensure the continued persistence of springsnails and their habitats in Nevada and Utah to preclude ESA listing.

The goal will be achieved through implementation of specific objectives set forth below and conservation measures identified in the Strategy. The status of springsnail species will be evaluated annually by the Springsnail Conservation Team through an adaptive management framework to assess program progress.

CONSERVATION STRATEGY OBJECTIVES

The following conservation objectives will be implemented to reach the goal of this Agreement stated above.

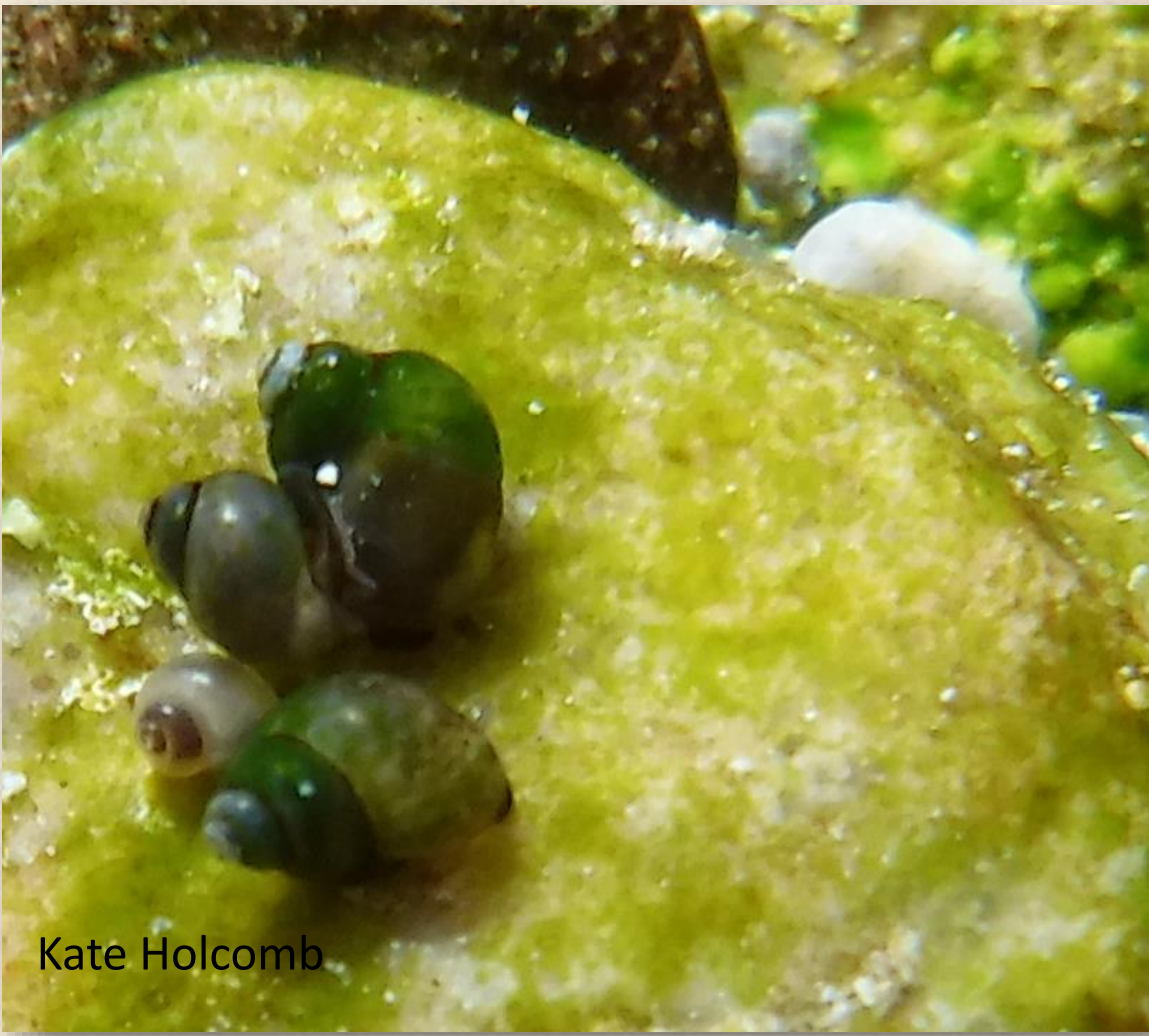
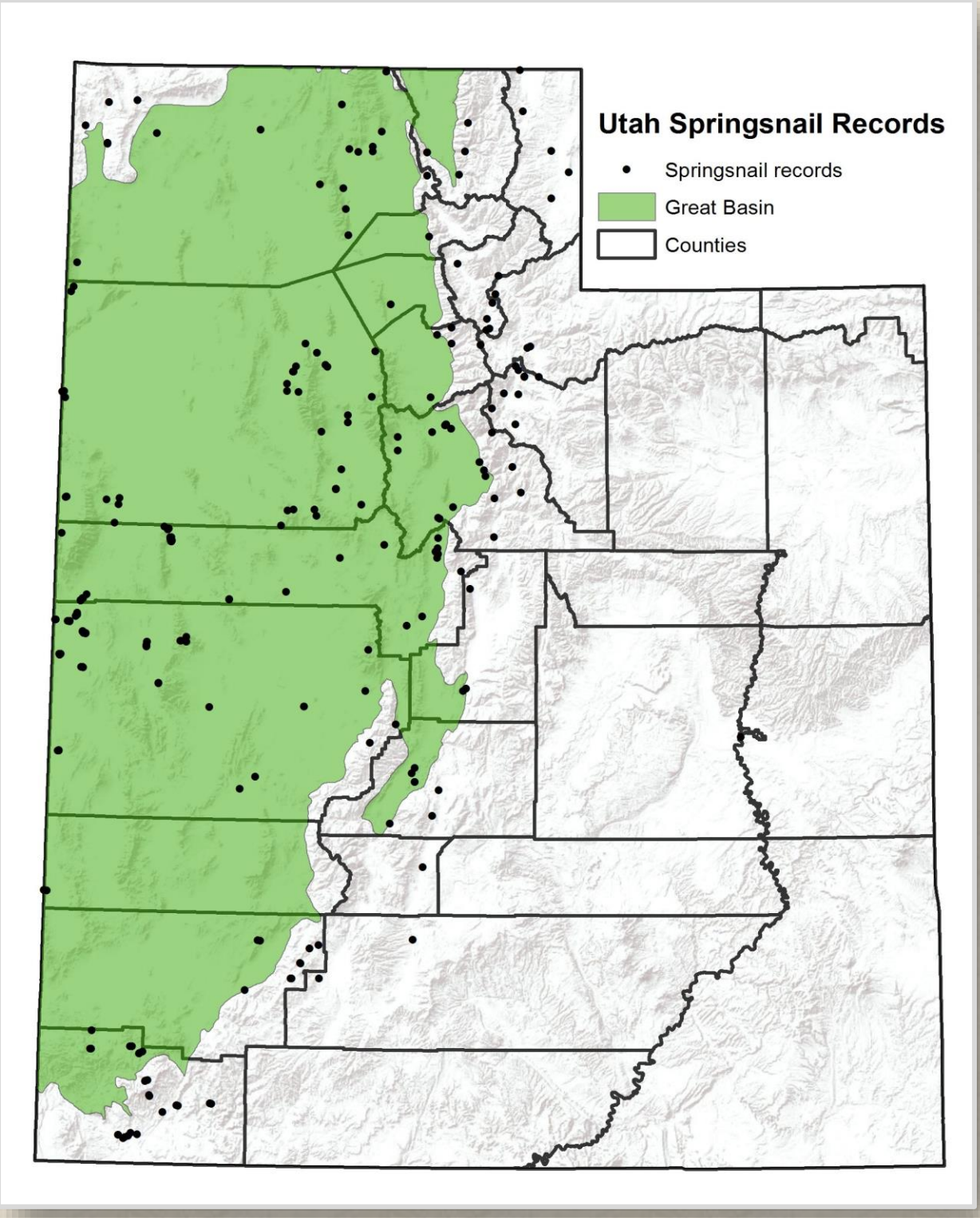
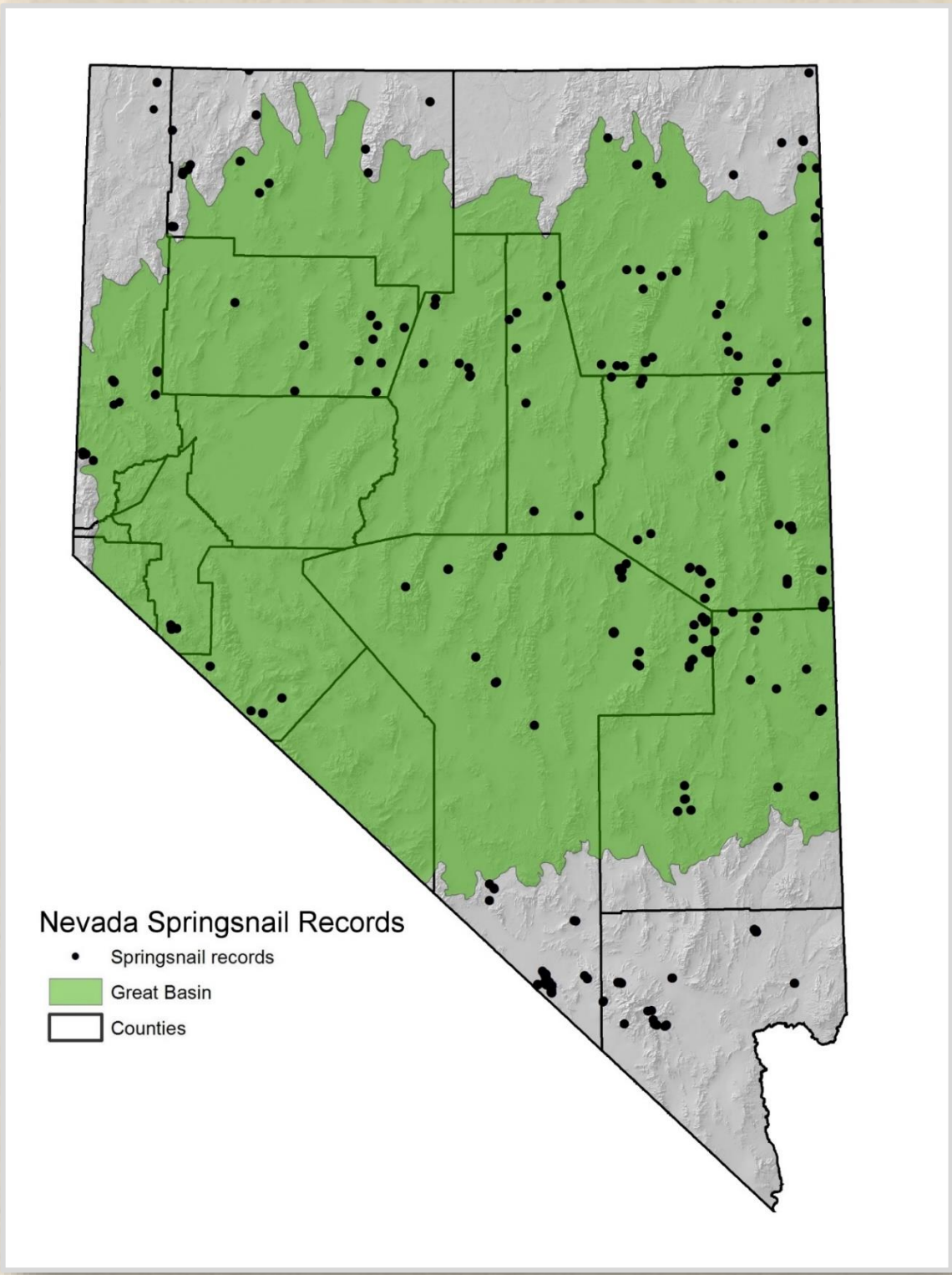
Objective 1. Compile known springsnail distribution, status and habitat data into a single comprehensive and accessible database and incorporate new information as it becomes available to manage extant and future spatial and biological information for springsnail conservation.

Objective 2. Identify, assess, and reduce known and potential threats to springsnail populations and their associated habitats at occupied sites.

Objective 3. Maintain, enhance, and restore springsnail habitats in Nevada and Utah to ensure the continued persistence of the species.

Objective 4. Develop a Springsnail Conservation Team, which will be tasked with development and implementation of the Strategy and coordinating on-the-ground conservation actions for identified springsnail species and habitats.

Objective 5. Create education and outreach tools that generate broad awareness and strong support for the conservation of springsnails and their habitats among land owners, agencies, and the general public.



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