

YAVAPAI MOUNTAIN SNAIL
(*OREOHELIX YAVAPAI*)

Navajo/Federal Statuses: NESL G4 / not listed under the ESA.

Distribution: Species mostly occurs in AZ, NM, and southern UT with smaller distributions in WY and MT. Historic records indicate two subspecies (*O.y.clutei* and *O.y.cummingsi*) from on, and around, Navajo Mountain, but presently known from one location in Canyon de Chelly National Monument (subspecies unknown). Potential throughout forested areas and possibly canyonlands on Navajo Nation.

Habitat: Only known extant population on Navajo Nation occurs on steep-sloped, northern-aspect coniferous forest with dense mossy groundcover over an exposed rock/boulder substrate. Cool, moist microclimate and dense moss are likely key habitat components here. Potential habitats include steep-forested slopes with leaf-litter and/or exposed rocks and rock outcrops, steep-walled canyons, and others areas that maintain a cool, microclimate and moist soils.

Similar Species: *Oreohelix* are the largest land snails on Navajo Nation, but species may be difficult to differentiate due to local variations in size and coloration; usually require examination by a expert specializing in mollusks. *Oreohelix* typically have a rough-textured, depressed-heliciform-shaped shell, are opaque with coloration of pale greyish-white to dark brownish, and typically have two bands of darker brown (one prominent band above and another just below the periphery). *O.yavapai* tends to be smaller in circumference (~12-16 mm) and more whitish in color with dull brown spire. Other than *O.strigosa*, only one other *Oreohelix* (*O.houghi*) has been recorded on Navajo Nation (in Canyon Diablo); *O.houghi* is generally larger in circumference (16-20mm), has irregular or spotted bands, and no spiral striation.

Phenology:

e.APR-1.OCT¹: non-migratory residents, most active during/after rainy periods

e.NOV-1.MAR: over-wintering

¹time periods estimated; information on phenology is lacking

Survey Method: ≥1 survey during 1 MAY-1 OCT, especially during rainy periods, at an effort sufficient to have high likelihood of detecting the species; locating dead shells on surface of ground is easiest way to determine presence.

Avoidance: No surface disturbance year-round within 60 m of occupied habitat.

References:

NatureServe Explorer: An online encyclopedia of life [web application]. 2005. Version 4.2. Arlington (VA): NatureServe. Available: <http://www.natureserve.org/>. (Accessed: January 12, 2005).

Pilsbry, H.A. 1939. Land Mollusca of North America (North of Mexico). The Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia. Monograph No.3, Vol.1, Part 1.