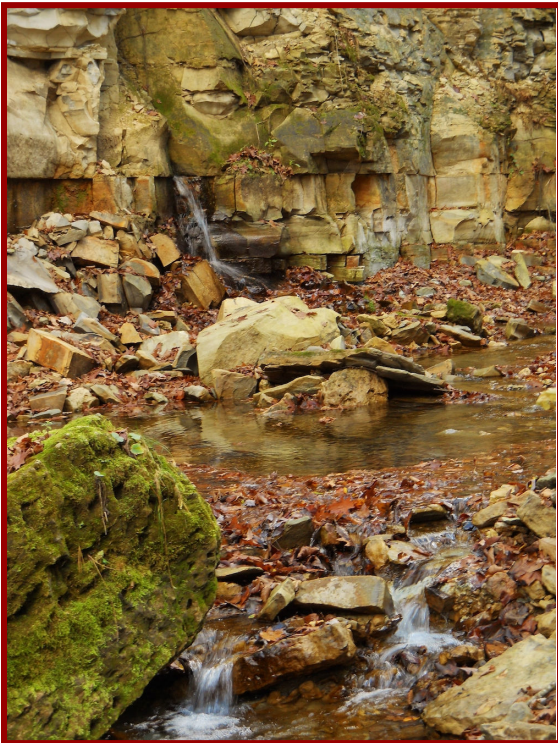


Snail Trail

Did you know that the Iowa Pleistocene snail (*Discus Macclintocki*) is going extinct? This creature is needed so we should try to save it from extinction. If this animal goes extinct the food chain will be messed up. In the following few paragraphs, we will learn why the Iowa Pleistocene snail is going extinct, what you can do to help it, and why this snail is important.



The Iowa Pleistocene snail is going extinct and we need to save them. There are less than 60,000 of them left in the world! The Iowa Pleistocene snail is going extinct because of climate change. This snail can only survive in temperatures under 50°F in the summer and 14°F in the winter because there is water where they live and the water changes temperatures in summer and winter. That means that if we try to slow climate change we have a chance to save this snail from extinction. If this snail goes extinct the whole food chain will be messed up. Next, we will start learning about what else we can do to save this snail from dying and becoming extinct.

The number of the Iowa Pleistocene snail is dropping. If we want to save this cool animal we have to act fast. We also need to know how to save them. This snail needs to be saved. This type of snail only lives in the driftless areas of Wisconsin, Iowa, and Illinois. The driftless areas are where the glaciers did not cover that part of land. The snail lives in the algific talus slope in the driftless areas. People are taking away the Iowa Pleistocene snail's habitat. Non-native plants also live there, like garlic mustard and buckthorn. We could get rid of these plants and it will help

the population of this animal. Also, we could try to slow climate change as these snails are sensitive to warmer or colder temperatures. So why should we save this cool snail in the first place? In the next paragraph, we will learn about the Iowa Pleistocene snail and why it is important to the ecosystem and the food chain.

Why is the Iowa Pleistocene snail important to the environment and the food chain? The short-tailed shrew likes to snack on the Iowa Pleistocene snail. The short-tailed shrew is relatively large, brown or gray with small black eyes. Some short-tailed shrews are long too, just like in this image. If the



Iowa Pleistocene snail goes extinct the shrews won't get a tasty snack, they do eat other stuff like worms and spiders so the

shrews will still live. The shrews might eat too much of the snails though. A lot of animals eat the shrews so the whole food chain will be messed up if the snail goes extinct. This means that we should save the snails. We can also preserve its habitat so it can survive. This snail is so important because lots of animals can be fed.

In conclusion, we need to help the Iowa Pleistocene snail (*Discus Macclintocki*) because the food chain will be messed up. We need to save this snail from climate change, non-native plants and shrews. The *Discus Macclintocki* is going extinct because of habitat loss too. So for the last time, we need to save the Iowa Pleistocene snail for a thriving environment in the driftless areas.

Resources:

[DeVore, Sheryl. "Rare Algific Slopes Could Still Harbor Endangered Snail." Outdoor Illinois Journal, Aug. 2021, outdoor.wildlifeillinois.org/articles/rare-algific-slopes-could-still-harbor-endangered-snail.](https://outdoor.wildlifeillinois.org/articles/rare-algific-slopes-could-still-harbor-endangered-snail)