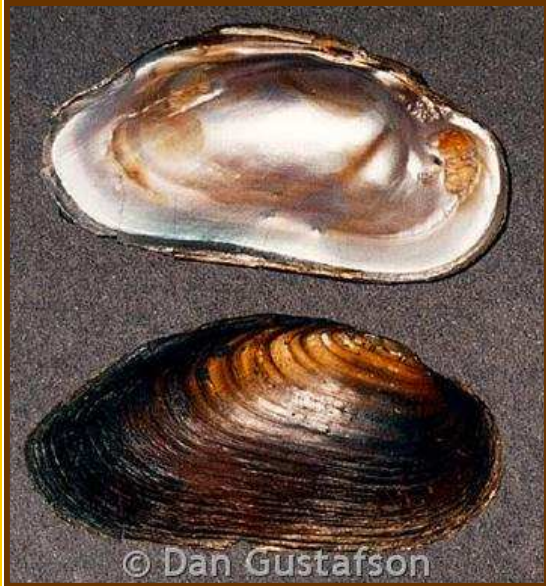


Western Pearlshell Mussel (Native)

Margaritifera falcata



Though they are declining worldwide, freshwater mussels perform critical functions in their ecosystems. They provide or improve habitat for other aquatic wildlife by creating physical structures and stabilizing sediments. As filter-feeders, they also cycle nutrients in the system by consuming and processing detritus, algae and bacteria, which they then excrete as nutrients.



Preferred Habitat: Sand, gravel, cobble and boulder habitat in streams and rivers, such as the Upper Truckee River

Size: 2-3.5 in. (50-85 mm)

Food: Adults filter algae, bacteria and detritus suspended in water. Larvae are parasitic on fish.

Ramshorn Snail (Native)

Lymnae or Fossaria

Snails are important members of freshwater ecosystems, such as the Tahoe Basin. They are an important food source for a variety of wildlife, such as ducks, turtles and fish. They also help to maintain good water quality by controlling algae and detritus levels, which then promotes nutrient cycling in the ecosystem. Our native snail species—the dextral and sinistral pond snails, and the ramshorn snail—are well worth protecting.



Preferred Habitat: Silt, cobble or aquatic vegetation in water 6-400 ft (2-120 m) deep

Size: 1/5-1/2 in. (5-15 mm)

Food: Detritus and associated bacteria at the bottom of the lake