

## ATTACHMENT SS2

REGION 2 SENSITIVE SPECIES EVALUATION FORMSpecies: Rita dotted-blue (*Euphilotes rita coloradensis*)

Criteria	Rank	Rationale	Literature Citations
<b>1</b> Distribution within R2	<b>B1</b>	Habitat is limited to short-grass prairies with caterpillar host <i>Eriogonum effusum</i> . Known only from R2.  Confidence in Rank <b>High</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Opler, Stanford, and Pavulaan. 2001. Butterflies of North America. U.S.G.S. web site.</li> <li>Ferris and Brown. 1981. Butterflies of the Rocky Mountain States. University of Oklahoma Press, Norman.</li> <li>Opler, P.A. 1999. Field Guide to Western Butterflies. Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston, 540 pp.</li> </ul>
<b>2</b> Distribution outside R2	<b>A</b>	This subspecies is known only from Region 2, but other subspecies occur to the West.  Confidence in Rank <b>High</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Opler, Stanford, and Pavulaan. 2001. Butterflies of North America. U.S.G.S. web site.</li> <li>Opler, P.A. 1999. Field Guide to Western Butterflies. Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston, 540 pp.</li> </ul>
<b>3</b> Dispersal Capability	<b>B</b>	These butterflies can fly, but they are behaviorally sedentary and usually stay on or close to their caterpillar host plant.  Confidence in Rank <b>High</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Opler (personal assessment)</li> </ul>
<b>4</b> Abundance in R2	<b>B</b>	Widely distributed but limited to short-grass prairie with <i>Eriogonum effusum</i> where habitat is still grazed. Ungrazed prairie becomes unsuitable and a number of populations have been lost.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Opler (personal assessment)</li> </ul>
<b>5</b> Population Trend in R2	<b>A</b>	The butterfly can no longer be found in some areas where it was formerly abundant. The butterfly seems to disappear in areas where cattle grazing has been removed in favor of feed lots.  Confidence in Rank <b>High</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Opler (personal assessment)</li> </ul>
<b>6</b> Habitat Trend in R2	<b>A</b>	Habitats become unsuitable due to invasion of alien weeds and removal of grazing. There seems to be downward trend with no new habitat being created. Adults nectar primarily on flowers of <i>Eriogonum effusum</i> , their caterpillar host.  Confidence in Rank <b>High</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Opler (personal assessment)</li> </ul>

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Species: Rita dotted-blue ( <i>Euphilotes rita coloradensis</i> )			
Criteria	Rank	Rationale	Literature Citations
<b>7</b> Habitat Vulnerability or Modification	<b>A</b>	Habitat seems very vulnerable as witnessed by loss of populations and apparent unsuitability.  Confidence in Rank <b>High</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Opler (personal assessment)</li> </ul>
<b>8</b> Life History and Demographics	<b>A</b>	Populations occupy most suitable habitats and may not recolonize after habitats are disturbed by fire or other disturbance unless another occupied habitat is nearby and former habitats become suitable. The sole caterpillar host is Eriogonum effusum upon whose flowers the adults nectar.  Confidence in Rank <b>Medium</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Opler (personal assessment)</li> <li>Opler, P.A. 1999. Field Guide to Western Butterflies. Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston, 540 pp.</li> </ul>
Initial Evaluator(s): Paul A. Opler, Professor, Colorado Statue University, Fort Collins, Colorado 80523			Date: 08/21/2001

National Forests in the Rocky Mountain Region where species is **KNOWN (K)** or **LIKELY(L)**<sup>1</sup> to occur:

<u>Colorado NF/NG</u>	Known	Likely	<u>Kansas NF/NG</u>	Known	Likely	<u>Nebraska NF/NG</u>	Known	Likely	<u>South Dakota NF/NG</u>	Known	Likely	<u>Wyoming NF/NG</u>	Known	Likely
Arapaho-Roosevelt NF	X		Cimmaron NG			Samuel R.McKelvie NF			Black Hills NF			Shoshone NF		
White River NF						Halsey NF			Buffalo Gap NG			Bighorn NF		
Routt NF						Nebraska NF			Ft. Pierre NG			Black Hills NF		
Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, Gunnison NF						Ogalala NG						Medicine Bow NF		
San Juan NF												Thunder Basin NG		
Rio Grande NF														
Pike-San Isabel NF														
Comanche NG	X													

<sup>1</sup> Likely is defined as more likely to occur than not occur on the National Forest or Grassland. This generally can be thought of as having a 50% chance or greater of appearing on NFS lands.