

Not R2 Sensitive Species and Not of Concern

Recommendations and Evaluations

Common Name: Bell's Vireo

Scientific Name: *Vireo belli*

Recommendation: Not R2 Sensitive Species and Not of Concern

Recommendation Rationale:

This is a widespread species that is rated as G5. This species occurs in eastern Region 2 which is along the western periphery of the species range. This species is limited geographically in Region 2 to the southern half of South Dakota, Nebraska and central and eastern Kansas. Known breeding has occurred on the Bighorn NF and Black Hills NF. However, because R2 administered lands are on the western periphery of this species range and they provide only very limited suitable habitat, NFS lands do not contribute significantly to the conservation of this species. Habitat trends on NFS units appear stable or increasing due to better riparian management in recent years. For these reasons, SS designation does not appear warranted at this time.

UPDATE (Peter McDonald, April 2015): Since this original evaluation/recommendation in 2001 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service identified the Bell's Vireo as a "Bird of Conservation Concern" in 2008. It has also since been upgraded on the IUCN Red List from lowest concern to near threatened based on moderately rapid declines of 2.7% per year since 1966. However, it remains in IUCN's "low risk" category. The 2014 State of the Birds report does not identify the Bell's Vireo in its RED (extremely high vulnerability due to small population, small range, high threats, and rangewide declines) or YELLOW (either range restricted or are more widespread but with troubling declines and high threats) watch lists. The report does identify the federally endangered *pusillus* subspecies (least Bell's vireo) that occurs along the west coast outside Region 2, in its category of distinct populations of conservation concern. The NatureServe G5 global ranking has not changed since the 2001 evaluation, although it appears the information on the website has not been updated since 1999 and so largely unchanged from that reviewed by the evaluator in 2001. Overall, the basic summary and rationale in 2001 appears to continue to apply. There is no substantial new information suggesting the Bell's Vireo should now be added to the Regional Forester's sensitive species list, or stands out as being of particular concern in this Region.

Birds of Conservation Concern

(2008): <http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/NewReportsPublications/SpecialTopics/BCC2008/BCC2008.pdf>

IUCN Red List (accessed 4/22/15): <http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/22705156/0>

State of the Birds (2014): <http://www.stateofthebirds.org/>

Natureserve profile (accessed

4/22/15): <http://explorer.natureserve.org/servlet/NatureServe?searchName=Vireo+bellii>