

ATTACHMENT SS2

REGION 2 SENSITIVE SPECIES EVALUATION FORM

Species: Coastal tailed frog ( <i>Ascaphus truei</i> )			
Criteria	Rank	Rationale	Literature Citations
1 Distribution within R2	NA	Coastal Tailed Frog are not known to occur in Region 2.  Confidence in rank: <b>HIGH</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8</li> </ul>
2 Distribution outside R2	B	Coastal Tailed Frog occur in moist, high-elevation conifer forests of the Pacific Northwest in two large and somewhat disjunct population segments. The Coastal Tailed Frog ( <i>Ascaphus truei</i> ) occurs in the western montane portions of northern California, Oregon, Washington and southwestern British Columbia. The inland Coastal Tailed Frog ( <i>Ascaphus montanus</i> ) exists in northern Idaho and western Montana.  Confidence in rank <b>HIGH</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8, 10, 11</li> </ul>
3 Dispersal Capability	B	No direct evidence of dispersal capability has been reported. Since Coastal Tailed Frogs are relatively specialized inhabitants of high-elevation, forest streams and are generally not found far from permanent water, it is likely that their dispersal ability is quite poor in unsuitable habitat. Other frogs have been shown to rarely move distances of more than a few kilometers, but are usually restricted to localized wetland areas.  Confidence in rank <b>MEDIUM</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10</li> </ul>
4 Abundance in R2	NA	Coastal Tailed Frogs are not known to occur in Region 2.  Confidence in rank <b>MEDIUM</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• na</li> </ul>
5 Population Trend in R2	AB	Coastal Tailed Frogs are not known to occur in Region 2. Outside the region, the Natural Heritage Programs list Coastal Tailed Frogs as: imperiled in California, vulnerable in Canada, Oregon and Idaho, and secure in Washington. Inland Coastal Tailed Frogs are ranked as: imperiled in British Columbia, vulnerable in Idaho, and secure in Montana (no ranks are given in Washington and Oregon).  Confidence in rank <b>MEDIUM</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• na</li> </ul>

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Criteria	Rank	Rationale	Literature Citations
6 Habitat Trend in R2	AB	The humid, conifer forests inhabited by Coastal Tailed Frogs are not prevalent in Region 2, so little potential habitat exists regardless of impacts. Land conversation, including logging that changes stream characteristics (particularly clear cutting), has been shown to greatly reduce Coastal Tailed Frog abundance.  Confidence in rank <b>LOW</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10, 11</li> </ul>
7 Habitat Vulnerability or Modification	A	Coastal Tailed Frogs are relative habitat specialists in streams of moist forests. The farther one gets from the Pacific coast, the more such habitat becomes naturally fragmented due to its close association with high-elevation montane areas. Given this already patchy distribution, disturbance can have very negative impacts, because little contiguous refuge habitat exists from which disturbed areas can be repopulated. Also, subtle changes in habitat can affect stream characteristics such as substrate size and embeddeness, current speed, maximum water temperature, and organic debris loading, which can in turn impact Coastal Tailed Frog abundance.  Confidence in rank <b>MEDIUM</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6, 10</li> </ul>
8 Life History and Demographics	A	As noted in the preceding categories, Coastal Tailed Frogs are habitat specialists, making them vulnerable to disturbance. Further, depending on local weather conditions, they may spend multiple years in their aquatic larval form before metamorphosing into the adult form, which limits their reproductive capacity in responding to outside impacts. Finally, amphibians in general are susceptible to environmental perturbations and disease, as evidenced by drastic declines worldwide for many species. Although such declines are not currently evident in Coastal Tailed Frog populations, the fact that other declines remain largely unexplained warrants caution when dealing with the conservation of all amphibians.  Confidence in rank <b>MEDIUM</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10</li> </ul>
Initial Evaluator(s): Douglas A. Keinath, Heritage Zoologist, Wyoming Natural Diversity Database			Date: 10/17/2001

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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	-	-	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	-	-												
Pawnee NG	-	-												

Footnotes

- ? The species is known or likely to occur in this unit, but the information on which this designation is made is indirect, insufficient, or uncertain, making it somewhat questionable without further input from local experts.
- A dash indicates that no information was found suggesting that species in question is known or likely to occur in the given management unit.
- # Numbers represent the main source from which the known or likely occurrence data was derived (see attached list of references).

<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.

## ATTACHMENT SS2

### REFERENCES

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3. CNHP Database. 2001. Unpublished distribution information for sensitive species in Colorado from the Biological and Conservation Data System of the Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado.
4. Colorado Gap Analysis Program (CO GAP). 2001. Online predictive species distribution maps generated by the Colorado Gap Analysis Program (<http://ndis.nrel.colostate.edu/cogap/cogaphome.html>), Colorado Division of Wildlife, Denver, Colorado.
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7. South Dakota Gap Analysis Program (SO GAP). 2001. Online information on species distribution models generated by the South Dakota Gap Analysis Program (<http://wfs.sdstate.edu/sdgap/sdgap.htm>), Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences and South Dakota Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, South Dakota State University, Brookings, South Dakota.
8. Stebbins, Robert C. 1985. A Field Guide to Western Reptiles and Amphibians. Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston, Massachusetts.
9. Welp L., W.F. Gertig, G.P. Jones, G.P. Beauvais, and S.M. Ogle. 2000. Fine Filter Analysis of Bighorn, Medicine Bow and Shoshone National Forests in Wyoming. Report prepared for the U.S. Forest Service Region 2, Denver, Colorado by the Wyoming Natural Diversity Database, University of Wyoming, Laramie, Wyoming.
10. Welsh, H.H., Jr. 1990. Relictual amphibians and old-growth forests. *Conservation Biology* 4(3) :309-319.
11. WYNDD Database. 2001. Unpublished distribution information in Wyoming from the Biological and Conservation Data System of the Wyoming Natural Diversity Database, University of Wyoming, Laramie, Wyoming.
12. Wyoming Gap Analysis Program (Wyoming GAP). 1996. Terrestrial Vertebrate Species Map Atlas Volume 1: Amphibians, Reptiles, and Mammals. Wyoming Gap Analysis Program, University of Wyoming, Laramie, Wyoming.
13. Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WYGF). 1999. Atlas of Birds, Mammals, Reptiles and Amphibians in Wyoming. Wyoming Game and Fish Department, Wildlife Division, Lander, Wyoming.