

## R2 Sensitive Species List Recommendation

### **Wood Frog (*Rana sylvatica*)**

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**Recommendation:** R2 Sensitive Species

**Rationale:** The wood frog ranges farther north than any other North American amphibian. It also ranges deep into the south. Populations in R2 are disjunct, broadly isolated from the remainder of the species range. Most habitat is on FS land and, therefore, somewhat protected. Nonetheless, isolated populations and habitats are vulnerable to activities (e.g., dewatering, timber harvest, grazing, road construction, water pollution) that would alter habitat suitability. Populations and their habitats appear stable at this time. Searches for wood frogs in the 1970's and '80s revealed the persistence of the species across its historic range. Little change in distribution was noted (Hammerson 1999). Populations reside on NFS land almost exclusively, and there is a possibility that a variety of NFS management actions could adversely affect population viability with a future change in management direction. However, because current management appears to be maintaining stable habitat and wood frog populations, we recommend at this time removing the species from the Regional sensitive species list and treating as one of local management emphasis to ensure adequate consideration of the species in Forest planning.

Note: In addition to the evaluator's references, also referred to Hammerson (1999) and distribution data from the Colorado Herpetological Society.