

R2 Sensitive Species (SS)

Recommendations and Evaluations

Common Name: Northern Harrier

Scientific Name: *Circus cyaneus*

Recommendation: R2 Sensitive Species (SS)

Recommendation Rationale:

Although this species is widely distributed (G5), BBS data indicate downward population trends throughout the western U.S. and Region 2. FS actions such as livestock grazing affect habitat quality for the Northern Harrier (undisturbed wetlands or grasslands with tall dense vegetation and high residual cover). The species is a priority species in the CO Partners in Flight bird conservation plan, and is identified as a bird of conservation concern by the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service (2002). Sensitive species status is warranted.