

**Not R2 SS, But Should Be Considered for other
Emphasis Species Lists**

Recommendations and Evaluations

Common Name: Gray Vireo

Scientific Name: *Vireo vicinior*

Recommendation: **Not R2 SS, be should be considered for other Emphasis Species Lists**

Recommendation Rationale:

Gray Vireo is limited primarily to the four corners states and its population density is generally low even in prime habitat. There is likely very little habitat for this species on NFS lands because it prefers low elevation open-grown stands of widely spaced junipers. The vast majority of habitat for this species is at lower elevations on BLM, NPS, Reservation, private and other federal government lands. There may have been a gradual historical increase in habitat for this species due to fire suppression and resultant expansion of juniper stands into low elevation grasslands. However, implementation of the National Fire Plan may result in loss of habitat over time. Therefore CO west slope NFS units should consider this for Emphasis Species Lists (good management indicator species for low elevation juniper) where it occurs (likely breeds in a few sites on Uncompahgre and San Juan NF's and Comanche NG).

UPDATE (Peter McDonald, April 2015): Since this original evaluation/recommendation in 2001, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service identified the Gray Vireo as a "Bird of Conservation Concern" in 2008. The IUCN Red List identifies the Gray Vireo as Least Concern based on a very large range, apparently increasing population trend, and overall very large population size. The 2014 State of the Birds report has it on its YELLOW watch list, meaning a species that is either range restricted, or is more widespread but with troubling declines and high threats. The Natureserve global ranking is G4, Apparently Secure. In Colorado the 2015 draft update of the state wildlife action plan identifies the gray vireo as a Species of Greatest Conservation Need, though placed in the lower priority Tier 2 category. Overall, the basic summary and rationale in 2001 appears to continue to apply. There is no obvious substantial new information since 2001 that suggests the Gray Vireo now warrants addition to the Regional Forester's sensitive species list. The more recent addition of the bird to the YELLOW watch list in the 2014 Sate of the Birds report does suggest that the earlier recommendation to consider it for other emphasis on applicable Region 2 forests still probably applies. Applicable R2 forests should continue to consider it for other emphasis and particularly recognizing the variability in state rankings (more concern in some states than others).

Birds of Conservation Concern (2008):

<http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/NewReportsPublications/SpecialTopics/BCC2008/BC2008.pdf>

IUCN Red List (accessed 4/24/15): <http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/22705156/0>

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

Natureserve profile (accessed 4/24/15):

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