

## Not R2 SS, consider for other Emphasis Species Lists

### Recommendations and Evaluations

**Common Name:** Pygmy Nuthatch

**Scientific Name:** *Sitta pygmaea*

**Recommendation:** Not R2 SS, consider for other Emphasis Species Lists

### Recommendation Rationale:

This species is a widely distributed, year-round resident that is strongly associated with mature ponderosa pine forests, although it also occurs in pinyon-juniper and lodgepole pine, and with large diameter snags. Population trend data are ambiguous for this species, but appear to be more or less stable. Mature ponderosa pine forest historically has been targeted for timber harvest due to its high value and accessibility. Fuels treatments under the National Fire Plan could reduce the number of larger diameter standing snags if protective measures are not rigorously implemented. Because of the potential direct effects of FS management actions, Forests should consider this species for Other Emphasis species lists.

Revised on March 17, 2003 by Nancy Warren

UPDATE (Peter McDonald, April 2015): The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service did not identify the Pygmy Nuthatch as a "Bird of Conservation Concern" (2008). The IUCN Red List identifies the species as "Least Concern," due to its extremely large range, population trend appears to be increasing, and the population size is very large. The Pygmy Nuthatch is not on the RED or YELLOW watch lists in the 2014 State of the Birds report from the American Bird Conservancy. Wyoming identifies the species as a Tier II Species of Greatest Conservation Need. Kansas does not identify the bird as a SGCN, nor does Colorado in their draft wildlife action plan update (2015). Nebraska identifies it as a Tier II species, which are not at-risk from a global or national perspective but are rare or imperiled within Nebraska. Overall, the basic summary and rationale in 2003 appears to still largely apply. There is no obvious substantial new information since 2003 that suggests the Pygmy Nuthatch now warrants addition to the Regional Forester's sensitive species list. 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 4/27/15): <http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/22705156/0>

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

Natureserve profile (accessed 4/27/15):

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

Wyoming state wildlife action plan (accessed 4/24/15):

[https://wgfd.wyo.gov/web2011/Departments/Wildlife/pdfs/SWAP\\_2010\\_FULL\\_OCT0003090.pdf](https://wgfd.wyo.gov/web2011/Departments/Wildlife/pdfs/SWAP_2010_FULL_OCT0003090.pdf)

Nebraska state wildlife action plan (accessed 4/27/15):

<http://outdoornebraska.ne.gov/wildlife/programs/legacy/review.asp>

South Dakota state wildlife action plan:

<http://gfp.sd.gov/wildlife/management/plans/species-list.aspx>

Kansas state wildlife action plan (accessed 4/27/15):

<http://www.teaming.com/sites/default/files/Kansas%20Wildlife%20Action%20Plan.pdf>