

Not R2 SS, But Should Be Considered for other

Emphasis Species Lists

Recommendations and Evaluations

Common Name: Willow Flycatcher

Scientific Name: *Empidonax traillii*

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

Recommendation Rationale:

[Note: This review is for Willow Flycatcher subspecies OTHER than the federally listed Southwest Willow Flycatcher subspecies (*E. t. extimus*).] It is impossible to separate out the strongly declining SWWF from other Willow Flycatcher trends because the BBS cannot separate flycatcher sub-species within the same range. Therefore, the SWWF's strong decline may bias information for other sub-species. In addition, BBS data do not sample riparian habitats very well. We examined BBS trends by state, but none were statistically significant. The species does not occur on NFS lands in Kansas and Nebraska; in SD, trends are stable or increasing over the last 20 years (n=15 routes); slightly decreasing in Colorado over last 20 years (n=15 routes); declining in Wyoming but highly unreliable (n=20 routes). Overall continental trends may be stable.

Willow Flycatcher is strongly associated with mid to low elevation riparian and wetland shrub habitats, which have been significantly impacted in extent and condition by water diversions, grazing, etc. in the last century. On NFS lands, condition of these habitats is likely to be gradually improving as riparian health is closely monitored and managed. Because of concern for low elevation riparian habitat, this species should be monitored closely. Although we conclude that there does not appear to be a compelling reason to merit sensitive status at this time, we strongly recommend this species and its habitat be monitored on units where it occurs. Management emphasis should be adopted on those units where problems are identified. It may also be a good management indicator species for mature willow riparian habitats and should be considered for this purpose by units hosting this species.