

Not R2 Sensitive Species and Not of Concern

Recommendations and Evaluations

Common Name: Clark's Nutcracker

Scientific Name: *Nucifraga columbiana*

Recommendation: Not R2 Sensitive Species and Not of Concern

Recommendation Rationale:

The NFS lands of R2 are home to a significant portion of the global population. R2 is, therefore, important to the persistence of the species. However, populations appear to be increasing, habitat is relatively stable, and because most is on NFS lands, fairly secure. Threats do not appear to be significant. An additional note not provided in the review is that this species is heavily dependant on whitebark pine as its primary seed source where their ranges coincide, and it has several unique adaptations for carrying seeds and recovering caches. Whitebark pine is also dependant on nutcracker dispersal of its seeds for reproduction. The recent expansion of pine blister rust and resultant death and loss of whitebark pine reproduction from many areas of the northwest is causing concern for several species dependant on this tree, including nutcrackers and grizzly bears. In R2, pinyon nuts are relied on very heavily during summer, but nutcracker breeding generally does not occur at those low elevations. Rather, the nuts are eaten by birds in post-breeding dispersal and likely brought back to higher elevation breeding areas and cached for later use. No known monitoring techniques are thought to adequately monitor this species (BBS data is unreliable) so trend estimates are suspect. Despite this additional information, I see no reason to alter the status recommendation.