

## Not R2 Sensitive Species and Not of Concern

### Recommendations and Evaluations

**Common Name:** Long-eared Owl

**Scientific Name:** *Asio otus*

**Recommendation:** Not R2 Sensitive Species and Not of Concern

#### Recommendation Rationale:

This species is secretive, hard to detect, starts nesting very early in the season before most human activity, and where studied intensively in Colorado's Grand Valley, found to be significantly more abundant than anyone expected. Breeding Bird Atlas records showed the species well distributed across the state of Colorado on both the eastern plains and mountain west. They were most abundant where dense shrub or conifer patches were surrounded by more open terrain. Conifer plantations in England and eastern U.S. have been documented to host significant breeding and wintering concentrations. As a microtine specialist, this species fluctuates widely in abundance within local areas, and readily takes advantage of areas of prey abundance. All of these factors suggest that this species does not warrant SS status and is not of concern now on NFS lands in R2.