

ATTACHMENT SS2

REGION 2 SENSITIVE SPECIES EVALUATION FORM

Species: TYMPANUCHUS PHASIANELLUS COLUMBIANUS/COLUMBIAN SHARP-TAILED GROUSE			
Criteria	Rank	Rationale	Literature Citations
1 Distribution within R2	A	There are a few isolated populations within R2 existing in mid elevation mountain sagebrush/grassland habitat usually adjacent to forested areas. Found only in a few locations with appropriate habitat. The fragmented, isolated local populations may place them at increased risk of extirpation. Confidence in Rank High	1,2,3,7
2 Distribution outside R2	B	Remaining populations also isolated in south-central British Columbia, south-west Idaho/northern Utah, and possibly a few other small scattered populations in Idaho, Colorado and south-east Nebraska. Confidence in Rank High	1,7
3 Dispersal Capability	B	Year-round resident. Disperse short distance from breeding and natal areas- likely only through limited range of habitat types. Confidence in Rank Medium	1,2,6
4 Abundance in R2	B	Uncomon where currently exists, but extirpated from 90% of former range. In R2 limited distribution and small population size: NW Colorado approx. 4500 individuals, SC Wyoming approx. 100-500 individuals (contiguous population or metapopulation), mostly if not all on the Route, Medicine Bow, and White River NF. Confidence in Rank High	1,2,7
5 Population Trend in R2	B	Likely stable where currently exists, but extirpated from much of former range. If small populations exist outside of distribution described above they will likely go extinct in the near future. BBS does not have data for this subspecies. Confidence in Rank Medium	4,7
6 Habitat Trend in R2	B	Large portions of native habitats historically used by <i>T.p.columbianus</i> have been converted for crop production and impacted by other uses, including development, dam construction, minerals exploitation, and herbicide spraying. Grazing has reduced cover and food resources in much of its former range, but much of the currently occupied areas are not subject (currently) to intensive grazing pressures. Confidence in Rank Medium	7
7 Habitat Vulnerability or Modification	B	Much of the currently occupied areas are part of the Federal Conservation Reserve Program, which restrict heavy grazing pressure. These contracts with private land owners will be up for renewal in 2008-2010 and may expire making the areas vulnerable to modification or loss. Confidence in Rank High	7

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8 Life History and Demographics	B	High reproductive rate ( <i>T. phasianellus</i> ); most females breed as yearlings, ave. 11 eggs per clutch, will double clutch if nest is lost, high hatching rate. High mortality; severe winters can remove 70% of local population, high predation rate, hunted for sport. Confidence in Rank Medium	1
Initial Evaluator(s): Initial Evaluator(s): Jason Bennett, Biologist, Wyoming Natural Diversity Database.			Date: 9 July 2001

Literature Citations:

- 1) Connelly, J. W., M. W. Gratson, and K. P. Reese. 1998. Sharp-tailed Grouse. *In* The Birds of North America, No. 354 (A. Poole and F. Gill, eds.) The Birds of North America, Inc., Philadelphia, PA.
- 2) Wyoming Natural Diversity Database, 2001.
- 3) Colorado GAP species distribution models: <http://ndis.nrel.colostate.edu/cogap/cogaphome.html>
- 4) Sauer, J. R., J. E. Hines, I. Thomas, J. Fallon, and G. Gough. 2000. The North American Breeding Bird Survey, Results and Analysis 1966 - 1999. Version 98.1, USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Laurel, MD.
- 5) Dorn, Jane L. and R.D. Dorn. 1990. Wyoming Birds. Mountain West Publishing, Cheyenne.
- 6) Robel, R.J., F.R. Henderson, and W. Jackson. 1972. Some sharp-tailed grouse population statistics from South Dakota. *J. Wildl. Manage.* 36: 87-98.
- 7) USFWS. 2000. 12-month finding for a petition to list the Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse as threatened. *Federal Register*: 65 (197): 60391-60396.

**National Forests in the Rocky Mountain Region where species is KNOWN (K) or LIKELY(L)<sup>1</sup> to occur:**

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<sup>1</sup> Likely is defined as more likely to occur than not occur on the National Forest or Grassland. This generally can be thought of as having a 50% chance or greater of appearing on NFS lands.

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<u>Colorado NF/NG</u>		<u>Kansas NF/NG</u>		<u>Nebraska NF/NG</u>		<u>South Dakota NF/NG</u>		<u>Wyoming NF/NG</u>	
Known	Likely	Known	Likely	Known	Likely	Known	Likely	Known	Likely
		Cimmaron NG		Samuel R. McKelvie NF		Black Hills NF		Shoshone NF	
Y				Halsey NF		Buffalo Gap NG		Bighorn NF	
Y				Nebraska NF		Ft. Pierre NG		Black Hills NF	
				Ogalala NG				Medicine Bow NF	Y
								Thunder Basin NG	