

REGION 2 SENSITIVE SPECIES EVALUATION FORM

Species: Grasshopper sparrow (<i>Ammodramus savannarum</i>)			
Criteria	Rank	Rationale	Literature Citations
1 Distribution within R2	B	The grasshopper sparrow occurs in all states of Region 2. Confidence in Rank High or Medium or Low	•
2 Distribution outside R2	C	Grasshopper Sparrows breed from southern British Columbia and southern Alberta to southern Maine, south to southern California, southcentral Texas, and central Georgia, and east to North Carolina, Maryland, and New Hampshire. The main population is in the Great Plains, from North Dakota south to northern Texas, and east to Illinois. Confidence in Rank High or Medium or Low	•
3 Dispersal Capability	C	There are no known impediments to dispersal Confidence in Rank High or Medium or Low	•
4 Abundance in R2	D	There are no abundance data available for this species. Confidence in Rank High or Medium or Low	•

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<p>5 Population Trend in R2</p>	<p>A</p>	<p>North American Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) data indicate a significant population decline (4.4% per year) in North America between 1966 and 1989; decline was 3.9% per year between 1966 and 1993. Termination of the Conservation Reserve Program and a return of enrolled land to cultivation are expected to cause a population decline of 20% in North Dakota. The species has declined in Colorado, Kansas, Wyoming, and Nebraska with a very significant decline in South Dakota. The species is viewed as apparently secure in South Dakota, Nebraska, and Kansas, and vulnerable in Colorado and Wyoming.</p> <p>Confidence in Rank High or Medium or Low</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • www.natureserve.org • http://www.mbr-pwrc.usgs.gov/bbs/specclis.html
<p>6 Habitat Trend in R2</p>	<p>A</p>	<p>Decline in several areas in the eastern U.S. and southeastern Canada evidently is due to loss of habitat to cultivation, urban sprawl, and reforestation, compounded by losses incurred as a result of mowing of habitat and subsequent increased predation. In Arizona, grazing decreased populations by removing bunchgrass, whereas in West Virginia, Florida, North Dakota, and Missouri moderate grazing did not cause a decline and (usually) increased grasshopper sparrow density (created areas of favorable short vegetation). Endangered Florida population (subspecies FLORIDANUS) has declined due to conversion of prairie to pasture. South American populations may be threatened by overgrazing and conversion of natural grasslands in limited range. In Region 2 grassland conversion and changes in farm programs lead to a continual decline in habitat.</p> <p>Confidence in Rank High or Medium or Low</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • www.natureserve.org
<p>7 Habitat Vulnerability or Modification</p>	<p>B</p>	<p>In the long term, grassland habitats are declining in the western hemisphere in quantity and quality and decreases in grasshopper sparrows are probably inevitable.</p> <p>Confidence in Rank High or Medium or Low</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •

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8 Life History and Demographics	B	Confidence in Rank High or Medium or Low	•
Initial Evaluator(s): John Sidle			Date: 6/29/01

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

<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
Arapaho-Roosevelt NF	L	Cimmaron NG	K	Samuel R.McKelvie NF	K	Black Hills NF	K	Shoshone NF	L
White River NF	L			Halsey NF	K	Buffalo Gap NG	K	Bighorn NF	L
Routt NF	L			Nebraska NF	K	Ft. Pierre NG	K	Black Hills NF	L
Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, Gunnison NF	L			Ogalala NG	K			Medicine Bow NF	
San Juan NF	L							Thunder Basin NG	K
Rio Grande NF									
Pike-San Isabel NF	K								
Comanche NG	K								

¹ 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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