

ATTACHMENT SS2

REGION 2 SENSITIVE SPECIES EVALUATION FORM

Species: MELANERPES LEWIS/LEWIS' WOODPECKER			
Criteria	Rank	Rationale	Literature Citations
1 Distribution within R2	B	Three principal habitats are open ponderosa pine forest, open riparian woodland dominated by cottonwood, and burned pine forest, but will also use other habitats such as piñon/juniper woodland. Preferred habitat naturally patchy. Distribution highly dependent on nest cavity availability and insect abundance. Sporadic distribution and relatively uncommon throughout range. Confidence in Rank High	1,2,5
2 Distribution outside R2	C	Wide distribution outside of R2. Populations in California, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, British Columbia, Montana, Utah, Nevada, Arizona, and New Mexico Confidence in Rank High	1,4
3 Dispersal Capability	C	Short-medium distant migrant. Portion of total population moves to north to breed. Species opportunistic in feeding habits and will form nomadic groups in fall and winter. Individuals or groups are sporadically observed outside of regular breeding and wintering grounds. Confidence in Rank Medium	1
4 Abundance in R2	B	Sporadic distribution- considered irregularly common, uncommon, or rare throughout range year-round. Local abundance likely varies greatly with food abundance. BBS data show consistent numbers in SE Colorado and in the Black Hills. Confidence in Rank Medium	1,2,4
5 Population Trend in R2	D	BBS and CBC data suggest overall population may have declined by 60% since the 1960's. But due to the sporadic distribution and sometimes cyclical patterns of local-scale abundance, BBS and CBC data may not adequately sample population. Low power of BBS analysis due to low detectability on routes and/or few routes through range. There has been a documented negative trend in the NW of species range (British Columbia). Confidence in Rank Medium	1

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Criteria	Rank	Rationale	Literature Citations
6 Habitat Trend in R2	A	Species depends on standing, dead or partly dead trees in advanced stages of decay for nest sites and old cottonwood trees with desiccation cracks for winter storage sites. Open ponderosa pine forests have declined extensively throughout US including R2, mainly due to fire suppression, intensive grazing, and replanting cuts with closely spaced seedlings. Burned forest declining due to fire suppression and salvage logging. Loss of cottonwood habitat attributed to attrition of standing dead trees and lack of regeneration of seedlings because of flood control, low water flow rates and intense grazing. Confidence in Rank High	1,2
7 Habitat Vulnerability or Modification	A	Habitat vulnerable for reasons stated above and human development is encroaching on breeding and overwintering habitat. Likely a serious problem in valley floors and foothills in R2. Continued land use practices can lead to attrition of old trees and little regeneration. Salvage logging of burned areas can reduce some prime habitat. Confidence in Rank High	1
8 Life History and Demographics	D	Measures of annual reproductive success vary. In cottonwood –agricultural plains of CO 60% of nests (n=42) produced at least one fledgling, in foothills only 29%. One brood per season, large clutch. Lifespan not known- 88% overwinter survivorship in foothills and plains of CO. Confidence in Rank High or Medium or Low	1,6
Initial Evaluator(s): Jason Bennett, Biologist, Wyoming Natural Diversity Database.			Date: 5 July 2001

Literature Citations:

- 1) Tobalske, B. W. 1997. Lewis' Woodpecker (*Melanerpes lewis*). In The Birds of North America, No. 284 (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) Tashiro-Vierling, K. Y. 1994. Population trends and ecology of the Lewis' Woodpecker (*Melanerpes lewis*) in southeastern Colorado. M. A. thesis, Univ. of Colorado, Boulder.

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National Forests in the Rocky Mountain Region where species is KNOWN (K) or LIKELY(L)<sup>1</sup> 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	Y	Cimmaron NG		Samuel R.McKelvie NF		Black Hills NF	Y	Shoshone NF	Y
White River NF	Y			Halsey NF		Buffalo Gap NG	Y	Bighorn NF	Y
Routt NF	Y			Nebraska NF	Y	Ft. Pierre NG		Black Hills NF	Y
Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, Gunnison NF	Y			Ogalala NG	Y			Medicine Bow NF	Y
San Juan NF	Y							Thunder Basin NG	
Rio Grande NF	Y								
Pike-San Isabel NF	Y								
Comanche NG									

Note: Species may not be present every year.

<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.