

REGION 2 SENSITIVE SPECIES EVALUATION FORM

Species: Long-billed Curlew (*Numenius americanus*)

Criteria	Rank	Rationale	Literature Citations
1 Distribution within R2	B	The long-billed curlew is found in all of the states of Region 2. Confidence in Rank High or Medium or Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Geographic Society 1987
2 Distribution outside R2	C	Long-billed curlews breed from interior British Columbia and southern Alberta through southern Manitoba, south to central California, and east to western North Dakota, central South Dakota, central Nebraska, western Kansas, northeastern New Mexico, and northern Texas. The species is found on grasslands in the Great Plains and on rangelands west to California. It winters from central Texas southward. Confidence in Rank High or Medium or Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> http://www.npwrc.usgs.gov/resource/literatr/grasbird/fplbcu/fplbcu.htm National Geographic Society 1987
3 Dispersal Capability	C	No barriers to dispersal are known Confidence in Rank High or Medium or Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none">
4 Abundance in R2	B	It is difficult to establish current numbers of long-billed curlews and other grassland birds. Reliance upon trend information for the curlew and other wide-ranging avian species may be more useful. Confidence in Rank High or Medium or Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> http://www.mbr-pwrc.usgs.gov/cgi-bin/atlas99.pl?02640

Species: Long-billed Curlew (*Numenius americanus*)

Criteria	Rank	Rationale	Literature Citations
<p>5 Population Trend in R2</p>	<p>A</p>	<p>The Breeding Bird Survey is a principal source of information on the population trend of grassland birds. The BBS indicates that throughout the species' range there has been a gradual decline since 1966 but a significant decline in the High Plains. There has been a sharp decline in Colorado and Nebraska, a notable increase in Wyoming, and a gradual decline in South Dakota and Kansas; critically imperiled in Kansas, imperiled in Colorado, and vulnerable in South Dakota, Nebraska, and Wyoming</p> <p>Confidence in Rank High or Medium or Low</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • http://www.mbr-pwrc.usgs.gov/cgi-bin/atlas99.pl?02640 • http://www.natureserve.org/
<p>6 Habitat Trend in R2</p>	<p>A</p>	<p>Long-billed Curlews use expansive, open, level to gently sloping or rolling grasslands with short vegetation such as shortgrass or recently grazed mixed-grass prairie. They commonly nest in both wet and dry prairie and in pastures, but rarely nest in hayland, cropland, fallow, or stubble fields). Proximity to water may be an important factor in habitat selection. Native grasslands continue to be converted to cropland and degraded by invasive species in Region 2 and elsewhere in the Great Plains. Probably stable amounts of habitat on NFS lands.</p> <p>Confidence in Rank High or Medium or Low</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Salt and Wilk 1958 • Bent 1962 • Graul 1971 • Stewart 1975 • Johnsgard 1980 • Bicak et al. 1982 • Cochran and Anderson 1987 • Shackford 1987 • Eldridge 1992 • McCallum et al. 1977 • Renaud 1980 • Cochran and Anderson 1987 • Shackford 1994

Species: Long-billed Curlew (*Numenius americanus*)

Criteria	Rank	Rationale	Literature Citations
7 Habitat Vulnerability or Modification	C	Conversion of grasslands to croplands and improper management of extant grasslands remain a perennial and potent force in the transformation of native Great Plains habitats. Confidence in Rank High or Medium or Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• http://www.npwrc.usgs.gov/resource/literatr/grasbird/fplbcu/fplbcu.htm
8 Life History and Demographics	B	Grasslands are dynamic to a point and the species can respond quickly to new available habitat after grazing and burning. Permanent loss of grassland to cropland poses a more serious long-term threat. Confidence in Rank High or Medium or Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• http://www.npwrc.usgs.gov/resource/literatr/grasbird/fplbcu/fplbcu.htm
Initial Evaluator(s): John G. Sidle			Date: 6/25/01

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

<u>Colorado NF/NG</u>	Known	Likely	<u>Kansas NF/NG</u>	Known	Likely	<u>Nebraska NF/NG</u>	Known	Likely	<u>South Dakota NF/NG</u>	Known	Likely	<u>Wyoming NF/NG</u>	Known	Likely
Arapaho-Roosevelt NF	K		Cimmaron NG	K		Samuel R.McKelvie NF	K		Black Hills NF			Shoshone NF		
White River NF						Halsey NF			Buffalo Gap NG	K		Bighorn NF		L
Routt NF						Nebraska NF	K		Ft. Pierre NG	K		Black Hills NF		
Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, Gunnison NF						Ogalala NG	K					Medicine Bow NF	K	
San Juan NF												Thunder Basin NG	K	
Rio Grande NF														
Pike-San Isabel NF		L												
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.

References

- Allen, J. N. 1980. The ecology and behavior of the Long-billed Curlew in southeastern Washington. *Wildlife Monographs* 73. 65 pages.
- Bent, A. C. 1962. Life histories of North American shorebirds. Part 2. Dover Publications, Inc., New York, New York. 602 pages.
- Bicak, T. K. 1977. Some eco-ethological aspects of a breeding population of Long-billed Curlews (*Numenius americanus*) in Nebraska. M.S. thesis. University of Nebraska, Omaha, Nebraska. 42 pages.
- Bicak, T. K. 1983. Vegetative interference: a factor affecting Long-billed Curlew (*Numenius americanus*) foraging success. *Wader Study Group Bulletin* 39:57.
- Bicak, T. K., R. L. Redmond, and D. A. Jenni. 1982. Effects of grazing on Long-billed Curlew (*Numenius americanus*) breeding behavior and ecology in southwestern Idaho. Pages 74-85 in J. M. Peek and P. D. Dalke, editors. *Proceedings of the wildlife-livestock relationships symposium*. University of Idaho, Forest, Wildlife and Range Experiment Station, Moscow, Idaho.
- Blus, L. J., C. J. Henny, and A. J. Krynitsky. 1985. Organochlorine-induced mortality and residues in Long-billed Curlews from Oregon. *Condor* 87:563-565.
- Bock, C. E., V. A. Saab, T. D. Rich, and D. S. Dobkin. 1993. Effects of livestock grazing on Neotropical migratory landbirds in western North America. Pages 296-309 in D. M. Finch and P. W. Stangel, editors. *Status and management of Neotropical migratory birds*. U.S.D.A. Forest Service,

General Technical Report RM-229.

Cochran, J. F., and S. H. Anderson. 1987. Comparison of habitat attributes at sites of stable and declining Long-billed Curlew populations. *Great Basin Naturalist* 47:459-466.

Cole, T., and R. S. Sharpe. 1976. The effects of grazing management on a sandhills prairie community. III. Breeding bird density and diversity. *Proceedings of the Nebraska Academy of Science Affiliated Society* 86:12.

Davis, W. B. 1949. Long-billed Curlew breeding in Colorado. *Auk* 66:202.

Dechant, J. A., M. L. Sondreal, D. H. Johnson, L. D. Igl, C. M. Goldade, P. A. Rabie, and B. R. Euliss. 1999 (revised 2001). Effects of management practices on grassland birds: Long-billed Curlew. Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center, Jamestown, ND. 19 pages.

Eldridge, J. 1992. Management of habitat for breeding and migrating shorebirds in the Midwest. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Leaflet 13.2.14. 6 pages.

Faanes, C. A., and G. R. Lingle. 1995. Breeding birds of the Platte River Valley of Nebraska. Jamestown, ND: Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center home page. <http://www.npwrc.usgs.gov/resource/distr/birds/platte/platte.htm> (Version 16JUL97).

Forsythe, D. M. 1972. Observations on the nesting biology of the Long-billed Curlew. *Great Basin Naturalist* 32:88-90.

Gratto-Trevor, C. *in press*. Use of managed and natural wetlands by upland breeding shorebirds in southern Alberta. *Proceedings of the fifth*

prairie conservation and endangered species conference, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

Graul, W. D. 1971. Observations at a Long-billed Curlew nest. *Auk* 88:182-184.

Johnsgard, P. A. 1979. *Birds of the Great Plains*. University of Nebraska Press, Lincoln, Nebraska. 539 pages.

Johnsgard, P. A. 1980. A preliminary list of the birds of Nebraska and adjacent Plains states. University of Nebraska, Lincoln, Nebraska. 156 pages.

Kantrud, H. A., and R. L. Kologiski. 1982. Effects of soils and grazing on breeding birds of uncultivated upland grasslands of the northern Great Plains. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Wildlife Research Report 15. 33 pages.

King, R. 1978. Habitat use and related behaviors of breeding Long-billed Curlews. M.S. thesis. Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado. 69 pages.

Maher, W. J. 1973. Matador Project: Birds I. Population dynamics. Canadian Committee for the International Biological Programme, Matador Project, Technical Report 34. University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. 56 pages.

Maher, W. J. 1974. Matador Project: Birds II. Avifauna of the Matador area. Canadian Committee for the International Biological Programme, Matador Project, Technical Report 58. University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. 31 pages.

McCallum, D. A., W. D. Gaul, and R. Zaccagnini. 1977. The breeding status of the Long-billed Curlew in Colorado. *Auk* 94:599-601.

McMaster, D. G., and S. K. Davis. 1998. Non-game evaluation of the Permanent Cover Program. Unpublished report. Saskatchewan Wetland Conservation Corporation, Regina, Saskatchewan. 75+ pages.

National Geographic Society. 1987. Field guide to the birds of North America, second edition. National Geographic Society, Washington, D.C. 464 pages.

Owens, R. A., and M. T. Myres. 1973. Effects of agriculture upon populations of native passerine birds of an Alberta fescue grassland. *Canadian Journal of Zoology* 51:697-713.

Pampush, G. J. 1980. Breeding chronology, habitat utilization and nest-site selection of the Long-billed Curlew in northcentral Oregon. M.S. thesis. Oregon State University, Corvallis, Oregon. 49 pages.

Pampush, G. J., and R. G. Anthony. 1993. Nest success, habitat utilization and nest-site selection of Long-billed Curlews in the Columbia Basin, Oregon. *Condor* 95:957-967.

Paton, P. W. C., and J. Dalton. 1994. Breeding ecology of Long-billed Curlews at Great Salt Lake, Utah. *Great Basin Naturalist* 54:79-85.

Prescott, D. R. C. 1997. Avian communities and NAWMP habitat priorities in the northern prairie biome of Alberta. NAWMP-029. Land Stewardship Centre of Canada, St. Albert, Alberta. 41 pages.

Prescott, D. R. C., R. Arbuckle, B. Goddard, and A. Murphy. 1993. Methods for the monitoring and assessment of avian communities on NAWMP landscapes in

Alberta, and 1993 results. NAWMP-007. Alberta NAWMP Centre, Edmonton, Alberta. 48 pages.

Redmond, R. L. 1986. Egg size and laying date of Long-billed Curlews (*Numenius americanus*): implications for female reproductive tactics. *Oikos* 46:330-338.

Redmond, R. L., T. K. Bickel, and D. A. Jenni. 1981. An evaluation of breeding season census techniques for Long-billed Curlews (*Numenius americanus*). *Studies in Avian Biology* 6:197-201.

Redmond, R. L., and D. A. Jenni. 1982. Natal philopatry and breeding area fidelity of Long-billed Curlews (*Numenius americanus*): patterns and evolutionary consequences. *Behavioral Ecology and Sociobiology* 10:277-279.

Redmond, R. L., and D. A. Jenni. 1986. Population ecology of the Long-billed Curlew (*Numenius americanus*) in western Idaho. *Auk* 103:755-767.

Renaud, W. E. 1980. The Long-billed Curlew in Saskatchewan: status and distribution. *Blue Jay* 38:221-237.

Sadler, D. A., and W. J. Maher. 1976. Notes on the Long-billed Curlew in Saskatchewan. *Auk* 93:382-384.

Salt, W. R., and A. L. Wilk. 1958. The birds of Alberta. Department of Economic Affairs, Edmonton, Alberta. 295 pages.

Shackford, J. S. 1987. Nesting distribution and population census of Golden Eagles, Prairie Falcons, Mountain Plovers, and Long-billed Curlews in Cimarron County, Oklahoma. Unpublished report, George Miksch Sutton Avian Research Center, Inc., Bartlesville, Oklahoma. 28 pages.

- Shackford, J. S. 1994. Nesting of Long-billed Curlews on cultivated fields. *Bulletin of the Oklahoma Ornithological Society* 27:17-20.
- Silloway, P M. 1900. Notes on the Long-billed Curlew. *Condor* 2:79-82.
- Spomer, R. 1981. Long-billed Curlews and Sprague's Pipits near Pierre. *South Dakota Bird Notes* 33:78.
- Stewart, R. E. 1975. Breeding birds of North Dakota. Tri-College Center for Environmental Studies, Fargo, North Dakota. 295 pages.
- Sugden, J. W. 1933. Range restriction of the Long-billed Curlew. *Condor* 35:3-9.
- Timken, R. L. 1969. Notes on the Long-billed Curlew. *Auk* 86:750-751.