

REGION 2 SENSITIVE SPECIES EVALUATION FORM

Species: McCown's longspur (<i>Calcarius mccownii</i>)			
Criteria	Rank	Rationale	Literature Citations
1 Distribution within R2	B	McCown's longspur occurs in Nebraska, South Dakota, and Wyoming, and Colorado. Confidence in Rank High or Medium or Low	•
2 Distribution outside R2	C	BREEDING: southeastern Alberta, southern Saskatchewan, northern North Dakota and (previously) southwestern Minnesota, south through Montana to southeastern Wyoming, northeastern Colorado, Oklahoma, northwestern Nebraska, and Manitoba. NON-BREEDING: primarily from western Oklahoma, western Kansas, southeastern Arizona, and central New Mexico south through Sonora and Chihuahua to northern Durango. Rarely in Idaho, Utah, Nevada, and northeast and coastal California. Confidence in Rank High or Medium or Low	• www.natureserve.org
3 Dispersal Capability	C	Confidence in Rank High or Medium or Low	•
4 Abundance in R2	B	Peak abundance in western Montana, southwestern Saskatchewan, and southeastern Wyoming. Locally abundant in shortgrass prairie and overgrazed pastures. In n.-central Colorado estimated 46.9 pairs per 100 hectares on a heavily grazed pasture in 1969. Another study estimated 81.5 individuals per 100 hectares in the same pasture in 1974. In a less preferred lightly grazed pasture found only 13.6 pairs per 100 hectares. In Saskatchewan estimated 79 individuals per 100 hectares. Breeding densities in Wyoming were higher with 76.6 pairs per 100 hectares (See With 1994a). Confidence in Rank High or Medium or Low	• www.natureserve.org

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<p>5 Population Trend in R2</p>	<p>D</p>	<p>Erratic fluctuations and unpredictable occurrence on breeding and wintering areas. Reported in the literature as decreasing in abundance throughout range since 1900. North American Breeding Bird Survey indicates annual increase (+7.9 percent, P less than 0.05) since 1966 on 66 routes (Knopf 1994, cited in With 1994a). Regional differences exist as half of the routes show a population decrease. Some authors suggest decline on wintering ground. Christmas Bird Count data from 27 sites during 1962 - 1972 show that this species occurred only sporadically making interpretation difficult. Only one site (Friona, Texas) reported annual occurrence for Christmas Bird Count (With 1994a). The species is viewed as vulnerable in Nebraska, Wyoming and Kansas, imperiled in Colorado, and possibly extirpated from South Dakota.</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>Habitat trend is related to grazing and predation. PREDATION: Nest predation believed to limit productivity. In Saskatchewan, Wyoming, and Colorado, about half of all nests were lost to predators, such as the thirteen-lined ground squirrel (<i>CITELLUS TRIDECIMLINEATUS</i>; see With 1994a). Nests in heavily grazed pasture suffered higher predation rates (up to 75 percent) compared to nests in moderately grazed pasture (up to 60 percent; With 1994a). Both eggs and nestling were depredated. HABITAT: Habitat destruction due to agricultural conversion and development of native prairie habitat is common in Region 2 and elsewhere in the northern Great Plains. Restriction of fire also reduced available shortgrass prairie. Population may also be limited by availability of microclimatic features. Initial territories have southern exposure; birds may be sensitive to ground temperature or moisture.</p> <p>Confidence in Rank High or Medium or Low</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • www.natureserve.org • see references section
<p>7 Habitat Vulnerability or Modification</p>	<p>D</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	D	Confidence in Rank High or Medium or Low	•
Initial Evaluator(s): John Sidle			Date: 7/5/01

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

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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