

ATTACHMENT SS2

REGION 2 SENSITIVE SPECIES EVALUATION FORM

Species: (Scientific Name/Common Name/National Code for Plants – USDA PLANTS) <i>Cinclus mexicanus</i>/American Dipper			
Criteria	Rank	Rationale	Literature Citations
<p>1 Distribution within R2</p>	<p>B</p>	<p>This species is unevenly distributed in mountainous areas in the western part of the R2 and is listed as demonstrably secure in both CO and WY. The eastern part of the R2 is on the edge or outside this species range and it is absent from KS. This species status is currently unknown in NE and listed as imperiled in SD. This species is limited in its distribution to fast flowing rocky streams and therefore much of the habitat in the eastern R2 is unsuitable.</p> <p>Confidence in Rank <u>High</u> or Medium or Low</p>	<p>Price, F.E. and C.E. Block. 1983. Population ecology of the Dipper (<i>Cinclus mexicanus</i>) in the Front Range of Colorado. Studies in Avian Biology 7.</p> <p>Kingery, H.E. 1996. American dipper (<i>Cinclus mexicanus</i>) <u>in</u> The Birds of North America, no. 229. (A. Poole and F. Gill, eds.) The Birds of North America, Inc. Philadelphia, PA.</p> <p>B. Luce, A. Cerovski, B. Oakleaf, J. Priday, and L. Van Fleet. 1999. Atlas of birds, Mammals, Reptiles and Amphibians in Wyoming. Wyoming Game and Fish Department, Lander, WY, USA.</p> <p>NatureServe: An online encyclopedia of life [web application]. 2001. Version 1.4. Arlington, Virginia, USA: Association for Biodiversity Information. Available: http://www.natureserve.org/.</p>

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<p>2 Distribution outside R2</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>This species is widely distributed in the mountains of North America and its range includes western and northeastern Alaska, north-central Yukon, northern British Columbia, southwestern Alberta, south in mountains to southwestern South Dakota, south to southern California and highlands of Mexico to western Panama. It is listed as demonstrably secure both nationally and globally.</p> <p>Confidence in Rank <u>High</u> or Medium or Low</p>	<p>Sibley, Ch. and B. Monroe, Jr. 1990. Distribution and Taxonomy of Birds of the World. Yale University Press. New Haven & London. 1111 p.</p> <p>Tyler, S.J. and S.J. Ormerand. 1994. The Dipper. I and AD Pyser, London.</p> <p>Kingery, H.E. 1996. American dipper (<i>Cinclus mexicanus</i>) <u>in</u> The Birds of North America, no. 229. (A. Poole and F. Gill, eds.) The Birds of North America, Inc. Philadelphia, PA.</p> <p>NatureServe: An online encyclopedia of life [web application]. 2001. Version 1.4. Arlington, Virginia, USA: Association for Biodiversity Information. Available: http://www.natureserve.org/.</p>

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<p>3 Dispersal Capability</p>	B	<p>This is a very mobile species but it prefers habitats near fast moving mountain streams. The American dipper is not a long-distance migrant however, it may migrate short distances along streams, especially to lower elevations, for winter. Only a small percentage of any given local population will disperse between drainages and typically this dispersal is driven by changes in food availability or streams freezing in winter.</p> <p>Confidence in Rank <u>High</u> or Medium or Low</p>	<p>Price, F.E. and C.E. Block. 1983. Population ecology of the Dipper (<i>Cinclus mexicanus</i>) in the Front Range of Colorado. Studies in Avian Biology 7.</p> <p>Kingery, H.E. 1996. American dipper (<i>Cinclus mexicanus</i>) in The Birds of North America, no. 229. (A. Poole and F. Gill, eds.) The Birds of North America, Inc. Philadelphia, PA.</p> <p>Palmer, R.S. 1988. Handbook of North American birds. Vol. 4. Yale University Press. New Haven, CT, USA.</p> <p>Biological and Conservation Database. 2000. Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, The Nature Conservancy, and the Association for Biodiversity Information.</p>
<p>4 Abundance in R2</p>	C	<p>This species is present in the highest relative abundance in the Northern Rocky Mountains Physiographic area (CO and WY) , and it is accidental or peripheral in the Badlands and Prairies (SD) physiographic area in R2.</p> <p>Confidence in Rank High or <u>Medium</u> or Low</p>	<p>Partners in Flight. 2001. Rocky Mountain Observatory Data. www.rmbo.org</p>

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5 Population Trend in R2	C	<p>This species population is possibly increasing in the Northern Rocky Mountains physiographic area, and stable in the Badlands and Prairies physiographic area in R2.</p> <p>Confidence in Rank <u>High</u> or <u>Medium</u> or Low</p>	<p>Partners in Flight. 2001. Rocky Mountain Observatory Data. www.rmbo.org</p>
6 Habitat Trend in R2	B	<p>This species primarily uses montane streams that are swift-flowing, and less frequently uses mountain ponds and lakes. There are many areas with suitable habitat for this species in R2. The breeding habitat of this species has expanded in some areas due to the availability of suitable nesting sites on bridges and dams constructed in areas with abundant available aquatic invertebrates but limited natural nest sites. Conservation of mountainous areas has also resulted in locally stable amounts of habitat for dippers. Further research is needed to quantify specific habitat trends for this species in R2 since it's breeding habitat is unevenly distributed across the management area into local areas along streams.</p> <p>Confidence in Rank <u>High</u> or <u>Medium</u> or Low</p>	<p>Palmer, R.S. 1988. Handbook of North American birds. Vol. 4. Yale University Press. New Haven, CT, USA.</p> <p>Sullivan, J.O. 1973. Ecology and behavior of the Dipper, adaptations of a passerine to an aquatic environment. Ph. D. Thesis. University of Montana, Missoula, MT.</p>

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<p>7 Habitat Vulnerability or Modification</p>	<p>B</p>	<p>There are moderate threats to breeding habitat for this species in R2. Most streams have very few adequate nesting sites for dippers. Identification and protection of these sites may be crucial to maintaining dippers in a particular watershed. Activities within and outside units in the R2 that modify stream flow or water quality such as timber harvest, water diversion or impoundment, or mining have the potential to displace dippers or reduce the quality of habitat available to them in affected areas. The American dipper spends almost all its life along small, clear streams from which it obtains its major food: aquatic insects. Clean streams and protected nesting sites are probably the two most important requirements for maintaining populations of the American dipper. Unpolluted streams are important for the production of the dippers' food, and good water clarity is needed so they can see their prey. The Dipper has been proposed as a good indicator species of water quality and stream ecosystem health that is easier to monitor than other species.</p> <p>Confidence in Rank <u>High</u> or Medium or Low</p>	<p>Kingery, H.E. 1996. American dipper (<i>Cinclus mexicanus</i>) in The Birds of North America, no. 229. (A. Poole and F. Gill, eds.) The Birds of North America, Inc. Philadelphia, PA.</p> <p>Partners in Flight. 2001. Rocky Mountain Observatory Data. www.rmbo.org</p> <p>Alaska Department of Game and Fish. 2001. Wildlife Notebook Series. www.state.ak.us/adfg/notebook/notehome.htm</p>

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<p>8 Life History and Demographics</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>This species is found in mountains to treeline. It usually nests on a raised site overlooking water; nests on rocks in streams, cliff ledge, under waterfalls, bridges, etc. Clutch size is 3-6 in northern part of this species range. Clutch size is typically smaller (2-4) on average in southern part of this species range. Incubation, by female, lasts 15-17 days. Altricial young are tended by both adults, leave nest at 24-25 days. Dippers primarily feed on adult insects and their larvae (e.g., caddis flies, stone flies, mayflies, mosquitos, water beetles); they also eat clams, snails, some trout fry. They typically walk, swim, or dive in or under water, and walk on stream bottoms while foraging. The sharp-shinned hawk, mink, marten, weasel, wolverine, and large fish have been reported as preying on or pursuing dippers however, dippers are not readily preyed upon. They have also been documented dying from diseases potentially spread by parasites such as the blowfly larvae and the fowl mite. Floods have also been a major cause of mortality in areas with highly variable spring flows. They compete with many species of fish for insects in most streams. Changes in water quality that influence the presence/abundance of macroinvertebrates could influence this species population and or distribution.</p> <p>Confidence in Rank <u>High</u> or Medium or Low</p>	<p>Backus, G.J. 1959. Observations in the life history of the dipper in Montana. Auk 76(2):90-207.</p> <p>Thut, R.N. 1970. Feeding Habits of the dipper in southwestern Washington. Condor 72- 234-235.</p> <p>Halstead, J.A. 1988. American dipper nestlings parasitized by blowfly larvae and northern fowl mites. Wilson Bulletin, 100: 507-508.</p> <p>Palmer, R.S. 1988. Handbook of North American birds. Vol. 4. Yale University Press. New Haven, CT, USA.</p> <p>Kingery, H.E. 1996. American dipper (<i>Cinclus mexicanus</i>) <u>in</u> The Birds of North America, no. 229. (A. Poole and F. Gill, eds.) The Birds of North America, Inc. Philadelphia, PA.</p>
<p>Evaluator(s): Stan Anderson and Matt McGee</p>			<p>Date: 7-10-01</p>

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