

ATTACHMENT SS2

REGION 2 SENSITIVE SPECIES EVALUATION FORM

Species: TYTO ALBA/ BARN OWL			
Criteria	Rank	Rationale	Literature Citations
1 Distribution within R2	B	Occurs at low elevations in open habitats, not found in most mountainous or heavily forested areas. Use of suitable foraging habitat is limited by nest cavity requirements. National Forest lands with some degree of agriculture and National Grasslands are more likely to support breeding populations.  Confidence in Rank High	1,2,3,4,5,6
2 Distribution outside R2	C	Very wide distribution outside of R2- Pandemic, but populations are patchy and often very local in distribution.  Confidence in Rank High	1
3 Dispersal Capability	C	Dispersal capability high as evidenced by their worldwide distribution and presence on near shore islands.  Confidence in Rank High	1
4 Abundance in R2	A	Rare or absent in most forested regions of R2. Occurs in low elevation agricultural and grassland areas in NE Wyoming, SW South Dakota, NW Nebraska, E Colorado and SW Kansas.  Confidence in Rank High	1,3,5,6
5 Population Trend in R2	D	Population trend in R2 unknown, but large declines have been documented in the Upper Midwestern U.S. Six states list the species as endangered and nine consider it a species of special concern. Declines thought to be due to changes in agricultural practices- these same changes may also be occurring in R2 and adjacent lands. May be increasing in areas that clear forested lands for agriculture. BBS data are insufficient to determine population trend.  Confidence in Rank Medium	1,4
6 Habitat Trend in R2	D	Habitat trend difficult to analyze. Although agricultural lands may be stable or increasing, barn owls have prey and nest cavity requirements that may not be met in many agricultural areas or grasslands.  Confidence in Rank Medium	1

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7 Habitat Vulnerability or Modification	B	Most low elevation grasslands have been converted to agricultural use and small mammal populations susceptible to human eradication. Natural nesting cavities in trees or cutbanks subject to removal or degradation by livestock or other agricultural practices.  Confidence in Rank Medium	1,2
8 Life History and Demographics	A	Annual survivorship low. Annual and lifetime reproductive success varies widely, but average low. Dependent on nest cavity availability for breeding.  Confidence in Rank Medium	1
Initial Evaluator(s): Jason Bennett, Biologist, Wyoming Natural Diversity Database.			Date: 24 June 2001.

Literature Citations:

- 1) Marti, C.D. 1992. Barn Owl. *In* The Birds of North America, No. 1 (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) South Dakota GAP Analysis Program: <http://wfs.sdstate.edu/sdgap/sdgap.htm>

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

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<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.

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<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			
		Cimmaron NG		Y	Samuel R. McKelvie NF			Black Hills NF	Y	Shoshone NF		
					Halsey NF			Buffalo Gap NG	Y	Bighorn NF		
					Nebraska NF			Ft. Pierre NG		Black Hills NF		
	Y				Ogalala NG		Y			Medicine Bow NF		
										Thunder Basin NG	Y	
	Y											