

REGION 2 SENSITIVE SPECIES EVALUATION FORM

Species: <i>Bucephala albeola</i> /Bufflehead													
Criteria	Rank	Rationale			Literature Citations								
1 Distribution within R2	B	1 breeding population in north central Colorado- possibly extending into Wyoming. Uses permanent ponds with no outlet or seasonal outflow, and small lakes with little or no emergent vegetation. Breeding limited by foraging locations and availability of nesting cavities (predominantly Northern Flicker), and hence needs mixed coniferous-deciduous woodland near lakes and ponds. Southeastern periphery of breeding range. Winter population scattered and patchy throughout much of R2, but same foraging limitations. Confidence in Rank Medium			1,2,5,6,7								
2 Distribution outside R2	C	Bulk of distribution outside of R2. Core breeding range central west Canada and Alaska with isolated breeding populations in NE California, Oregon, NW Wyoming/SW Montana. Winter range predominantly coastal, but also found across the continental US in wetland areas. Confidence in Rank High			1,2,3,6								
3 Dispersal Capability	C	All populations migrate short-medium distance. Although readily disperse/migrate across landscape, stopover areas are limited to wetlands. Generally ponds with extensive emergent or submergent vegetation avoided. Confidence in Rank High or Medium or Low			1								
4 Abundance in R2	A	A rank- Breeding distribution within R2 limited to small region in the Routt/Arapaho-Roosevelt NF's and abundance likely relatively small. C rank- Can be common during winter and migration throughout R2 in wetland areas. Confidence in Rank Medium			1,3,5,7								
5 Population Trend in R2	D	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Region: FWS Region 6</th> <th>Trend</th> <th>P-value</th> <th>Credibility</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1966-1999</td> <td>1.2</td> <td>0.08</td> <td>Lo</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Credibility low due to low number of routes in (7) and fewer than 1 individual (on average) detected per route. Population lows occurred at turn of the century across entire range, but populations have increased from these lows since then. Breeding population trend in R2 unknown. Confidence in Rank Medium</p>			Region: FWS Region 6	Trend	P-value	Credibility	1966-1999	1.2	0.08	Lo	1,4
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6 Habitat Trend in R2	B	In western N. America, extensive clearing for agriculture throughout the aspen parkland over the last century has eliminated important nesting habitat and is continuing today, although in R2 most current breeding habitat has some degree of protection. Breeding habitat likely stable. The loss of natural ponds due to development (industrial, agricultural, urban) may be balanced by creation of reservoirs. Confidence in Rank High or Medium or Low	1,2
7 Habitat Vulnerability or Modification	B	Breeding habitats vulnerable for reasons stated above and increased human activity (development, recreation) in nesting areas may have negative impacts- Buffleheads probably sensitive to human disturbance. Winter and migratory habitats (ponds, lakes, reservoirs) resilient and numerous. Confidence in Rank Medium	1
8 Life History and Demographics	B	Females are strongly philopatric to their natal area and adults of both sexes return to their breeding and wintering areas annually. Recolonization where breeding habitat or individuals have previously been removed very slow. Breeding limited by appropriate sized nesting cavities, although will use nest boxes. Both males and females first breed at 2yrs. First time breeding females have a higher rate of nest desertion than older birds. Nest success (number of nests successfully fledging at least one chick) relatively high in most areas (55%-78%). Annual survival rate approx. 65%, lower for juveniles. Hunted species. Confidence in Rank High	1
Initial Evaluator(s): Jason Bennett, Biologist, Wyoming Natural Diversity Database.			Date: 10 July 2001

Literature Citations:

- 1) Gauthier, G. 1993. Bufflehead (*Bucephala albeola*). In The Birds of North America, No. 67 (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) Merrill, E.H., T.W. Kohley, and M.E. Herdendorf. 1996. Wyoming Gap Analysis terrestrial vertebrate species map atlas. Wyoming Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Unit, University of Wyoming, Laramie WY. 982 pp. in 2 volumes.
- 7) Wyoming Game and Fish Department, Wildlife Division. 1997. Atlas of birds, mammals, reptiles, and amphibians in Wyoming. Produced by the Biological Services Section, Wyoming Game and Fish Department, Non Game Program, Lander, WY, November 1997.

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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	1		Cimmaron NG		4	Samuel R.McKelvie NF		4	Black Hills NF		4	Shoshone NF	2	
White River NF	2					Halsey NF		4	Buffalo Gap NG		4	Bighorn NF	3	
Routt NF	1					Nebraska NF		4	Ft. Pierre NG		4	Black Hills NF	3	
Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, Gunnison NF	3					Ogalala NG		4				Medicine Bow NF	2	
San Juan NF	3											Thunder Basin NG	3	
Rio Grande NF	3													
Pike-San Isabel NF	3													
Comanche NG		4												

- 1) Probably breeding area
- 2) Possibly breeds periodically, but found during migration/winter
- 3) Migration/winter
- 4) Migration/winter if area contains small-medium ponds and lakes with little or no emergent vegetation

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.