

ATTACHMENT SS2

REGION 2 SENSITIVE SPECIES EVALUATION FORM

Species: <b><i>Junco hyemalis aikenii</i> / White-winged junco</b>			
Criteria	Rank	Rationale	Literature Citations
<p><b>1</b> Distribution within R2</p>	<b>B</b>	<p><i>J. hyemalis</i> is rather widespread and abundant throughout the Rocky Mountain Region; however, this subspecies breeds only in the Black Hills area (northeast Wyoming, northwest Nebraska, western South Dakota, and southeast Montana). Its winter range includes the entire region, including the Black Hills area. Migration is presumed to occur through most habitats in the region. Suitable habitat for this subspecies is likely contiguous and widespread within seasonal ranges. Breeding habitat may qualify for an "A" rank; migration and winter habitat may each qualify for a "C" rank.</p> <p>Confidence in Rank: <b>High</b></p>	<p>Rising, J.D. 1996. A guide to the identification and natural history of the sparrows of the United States and Canada. Academic Press, San Diego.</p> <p>Dorn, J. L. and R. D. Dorn. 1999. Wyoming birds. Second edition. Mountain West Publishing. Cheyenne, Wyoming.</p>
<p><b>2</b> Distribution outside R2</p>	<b>B</b>	<p>Breeding may occur in southeast Montana and extreme northwest South Dakota. Non-breeding range includes the Black Hills south through Colorado to New Mexico and northern Arizona, east to South Dakota, Kansas, Oklahoma, and northern Texas.</p> <p>Confidence in Rank <b>High</b></p>	<p>Rising, J.D. 1996. A guide to the identification and natural history of the sparrows of the United States and Canada. Academic Press, San Diego.</p>
<p><b>3</b> Dispersal Capability</p>	<b>C</b>	<p>Breeding and nonbreeding ranges are limited in extent; however, this is likely not due to geographic barriers or marked habitat isolation. This taxon is rather mobile and general in habitat use, and is presumably able to move long distances through different environments.</p> <p>Confidence in Rank: <b>Medium</b></p>	<p>Rising, J.D. 1996. A guide to the identification and natural history of the sparrows of the United States and Canada. Academic Press, San Diego.</p> <p>Colorado Gap website: <a href="http://ndis.nrel.colostate.edu/cogap/cogaphome.html">http://ndis.nrel.colostate.edu/cogap/cogaphome.html</a></p>

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<p><b>4</b> Abundance in R2</p>	<b>B</b>	<p>Few occurrences have been reported for Wyoming, but the subspecies is generally assumed to be somewhat common within its limited range. It is not considered of conservation priority in South Dakota (i.e., it is not listed as a Species of Concern by the South Dakota Heritage Program). Generality of habitat use suggests resiliency to local population declines, but restricted nature of breeding range may make the subspecies more sensitive to adverse conditions. Because breeding range is centered on the Black Hills, and because preferred habitat is generally forest, woodland, and shrubland, the Black Hills National Forest likely supports the majority of breeding individuals of this subspecies.</p> <p>Confidence in Rank: <b>Low</b></p>	<p><a href="http://www.state.sd.us/gfp/Diversity/RareAnimal.htm">http://www.state.sd.us/gfp/Diversity/RareAnimal.htm</a></p> <p>Wyoming Natural Diversity Database University of Wyoming Biological and Conservation Data System P.O. 3381 Laramie, WY 82072</p>																
<p><b>5</b> Population Trend in R2</p>	<b>D</b>	<p>Trend data below are for the full species <i>J. hyemalis</i>, and suggest stable-to-increasing populations. However, trend data for subspecies <i>J. h. aikenii</i> are unavailable.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Trend</th> <th>P-value</th> <th>Credibility</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><b>1966-1999</b></td> <td>2.1</td> <td>0.01</td> <td>Med</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>1966-1979</b></td> <td>16.8</td> <td>0.03</td> <td>Med</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>1980-1999</b></td> <td>0.4</td> <td>0.83</td> <td>Med</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Confidence in Rank: <b>Medium</b></p>		Trend	P-value	Credibility	<b>1966-1999</b>	2.1	0.01	Med	<b>1966-1979</b>	16.8	0.03	Med	<b>1980-1999</b>	0.4	0.83	Med	<p><a href="http://www.mbr-pwrc.usgs.gov/bbs/bbs.html">http://www.mbr-pwrc.usgs.gov/bbs/bbs.html</a></p> <p>National Geographic Society. 1999. Field guide to the birds of North America. Third edition. National Geographic Society, Washington, D.C</p>
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<p><b>6</b> Habitat Trend in R2</p>	<b>B</b>	<p>Breeding habitat is generally forests, woodlands, shrublands, and even grass-dominated areas in the vicinity of wooded types. Winter habitat may be even broader. This suggests that habitat abundance and distribution has remained stable in the region. Preference for wooded types, coupled with the fact that breeding range is centered on the Black Hills, suggests that the Black Hills National Forest supports the majority of breeding habitat for this taxon.</p> <p>Confidence in Rank: <b>Medium</b></p>	<p>American Ornithologists' Union (AOU), Committee on Classification and Nomenclature. 1983. Checklist of North American Birds. Sixth Edition. American Ornithologists' Union, Allen Press, Inc., Lawrence, Kansas.</p>																

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<b>7</b> Habitat Vulnerability or Modification	<b>C</b>	Because of broad habitat tolerances, it is likely that only drastic disturbances can convert suitable habitat to unsuitable habitat. Such conversions may be rather local, and persist for only a relatively short period before vegetative succession returns an area to suitable status. Some disturbances (e.g., mosaic fire, blowdowns, selective timber harvesting) to heavy forest may increase habitat quality.  <b>Confidence in Rank Low</b>	American Ornithologists' Union (AOU), Committee on Classification and Nomenclature. 1983. Checklist of North American Birds. Sixth Edition. American Ornithologists' Union, Allen Press, Inc., Lawrence, Kansas.
<b>8</b> Life History and Demographics	<b>C</b>	This evaluator (G. Beauvais) is unaware of any life history or demographic characters that would predispose this taxon to local extinction.  <b>Confidence in Rank Low</b>	
Initial Evaluator(s): <b>Dr. Gary P. Beauvais, Director, Wyoming Natural Diversity Database - University of Wyoming; and Rebekah Smith, Research Scientist, Wyoming Natural Diversity Database - University of Wyoming.</b>			<b>Date: June 12, 2001</b>

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

<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	
Arapaho-Roosevelt NF	XW	Cimmaron NG	?W	Samuel R.McKelvie NF		Black Hills NF	XB	Shoshone NF	XW	
White River NF	XW			Halsey NF		Buffalo Gap NG	XB	Bighorn NF	XW	
Routt NF	XW			Nebraska NF	XW	Ft. Pierre NG		Black Hills NF	XB	
Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, Gunnison NF	XW			Ogalala NG	XW			Medicine Bow NF	XW	?B
San Juan NF	XW							Thunder Basin NG		?B
Rio Grande NF	XW									
Pike-San Isabel NF	XW									
Comanche NG	XW									

- X** = known or likely
- ?** = possible (presence is suspected, but with a certainty of less than 50%).
- B** = breeding season
- W** = winter season
- M** = migration period