

REGION 2 SENSITIVE SPECIES EVALUATION FORM

Species: (Polioptila caerulea/Blue-gray Gnatcatcher)

Criteria	Rank	Rationale	Literature Citations
1 Distribution within R2	C	High. This species has a rather patchy distribution in R2 controlled by preferred habitat. It is a common breeder in PJ habitats in western Colorado, along the front range and in the southeast. It is a common breeder in PJ in central Wyoming. It is a common breeder in extreme eastern Kansas, Nebraska and South Dakota. It is a casual visitor elsewhere.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kingery • Busby & Zimmerman • Scott • SDOU • Andrews & Righter
2 Distribution outside R2	C	High. They breed throughout most of the U.S. except the northern Great Plains and the northwest U.S. They winter south to the Bahamas and central America. About 94 percent of the population occurs outside R2.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ehrlich et al. • National Geographic Society • Gram & Faaborg
3 Dispersal Capability	C	High. This species migrates relatively long distances between summer and winter ranges and has high dispersal capabilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ehrlich et al.
4 Abundance in R2	C	High. This species is relatively common in central and western parts of R2.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carter et al. • Busby & Zimmerman • Scott • SDOU • Andrews & Righter
5 Population Trend in R2	C	High. Available population trend information for this species indicates that they may be slightly decreasing. Data analysis for the period of 1966-1999 shows a 1.8 percent decrease, while analysis for the period of 1980-1999 shows only a .2 percent decrease.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carter et al. • BBS
6 Habitat Trend in R2	C	High. The pinyon-juniper and mountain shrub communities on NFS lands and on private lands is relatively stable.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carter et al.
7 Habitat Vulnerability or Modification	C	High. This type of habitat on NFS lands is unlikely to change significantly in the future. Excessive livestock grazing could cause a deterioration of this habitat. Development could cause a deterioration of this habitat on private lands.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carter et al

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8 Life History and Demographics	C	High. In R2 this species favors Pinyon-Juniper and Mountain shrub habitats while in other areas it is more of a habitat generalist and uses a variety of woodland habitats. It lays four to five eggs per nest and in the southern portion of its range produces two broods per nesting season.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ehrlich et al.
Evaluator(s): Dick Roth			Date: 7/26/01

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