

ATTACHMENT SS2

REGION 2 SENSITIVE SPECIES EVALUATION FORM

Species: STERNA CASPIA/CASPIAN TERN			
Criteria	Rank	Rationale	Literature Citations
1 Distribution within R2	B	Species not known to breed within R2, but occurs during migration. In Wyoming nests on flat, sparsely vegetated islands or shores of Yellowstone, Ocean, Amoco Soda, and Bamforth Lakes (outside of R2). During migration occurs along large rivers, large freshwater lakes and marshes. Rank of 'B' assigned due to patchiness of aquatic habitat during migration. Confidence in Rank High	1,2,3,6,7,8,9
2 Distribution outside R2	C	Full breeding distribution outside of R2. In interior west restricted to a few locations in Wyoming, Utah, Idaho, Washington, Oregon, California, Alberta and Saskatchewan. Other breeding areas include the portions of the Great Lakes area, Lakes of Manitoba and the NW Territories, the Bay area of central California, coastal southern/Baja California and portions of the Gulf Coast. Can be found uncommonly, but regularly across the West during migration. Confidence in Rank High	1
3 Dispersal Capability	C	Partial-medium distant migrant. Will travel up to 5000km during migration, but are restricted to aquatic habitats with food (small fish) during migration stopovers. Confidence in Rank High	1
4 Abundance in R2	A	Rare to uncommon during migration, but there are no known breeding occurrences within R2. Confidence in Rank High	1,2,3,5,6,7,8,9
5 Population Trend in R2	D	Since rare to uncommon during migration and does not breed in R2 trend irrelevant or impossible to determine. Most populations across North America are increasing from lows around the turn of the century through the 1960's (due to over harvest, contaminants and disturbance at breeding sites). Populations throughout Europe in decline. Although numbers generally increasing, species still rare to uncommon across breeding range and many states and territories afford it some degree of protection status. Confidence in Rank Medium	1,4

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6 Habitat Trend in R2	B	Migratory stopover habitat (rivers, lakes, ponds, marshes) likely stable in R2. Many wetlands protected and loss of appropriate foraging wetlands possibly balanced by creation of reservoirs. Also, fish populations enhanced and maintained for sport. Confidence in Rank Medium	1,2
7 Habitat Vulnerability or Modification	C	Migratory stopover habitat generally resilient due to reasons stated above. Confidence in Rank High or Medium or Low	•
8 Life History and Demographics	A	Breeding colonies extremely sensitive to human disturbance. Individuals will abandon nests readily and disturbance increases likelihood of nest predation or chick mortality. Most birds do not breed until their 4 th summer and annual reproductive success highly variable. 1 nest per season, but will renest if clutch lost. Greatest mortality occurs during first 6 mo of life, but once reaches maturity will likely survive a long time (based on band recoveries). Caspian Terns lose competition for nesting sites with most gulls and gulls depredate tern nests- many gull populations are increasing Confidence in Rank Medium	1
Initial Evaluator(s): Jason Bennett, Biologist, Wyoming Natural Diversity Database.			Date: 12 July 2001

Literature Citations:

- 1) Cuthbert, F. J., and L. R. Wires. 1999. Caspian Tern (*Sterna caspia*). In The Birds of North America, No. 403 (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.
- 8) Peterson, Richard A. 1995. The South Dakota breeding bird atlas. South Dakota Ornithologists' Union. Jamestown, ND: Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center Home Page. <http://www.npwrc.usgs.gov/resource/distr/birds/sdatlas/sdatlas.htm> (Version 06JUL2000).
- 9) Colorado County Occurrence/Abundance Site. Accessed 12 July 2001. <http://ndis.nrel.colostate.edu/ndis/countyab/>

