

REGION 2 SENSITIVE SPECIES EVALUATION FORM

Species: (Corvus cryptoleucus/Chihuahuan Raven)

Criteria	Rank	Rationale	Literature Citations
1 Distribution within R2	A	High. The Chihuahuan Raven is limited in breeding distribution to the great plains of southeastern Colorado and extreme southwestern Kansas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Andrews &amp; Righter</li> <li>• Kingery</li> <li>• Busby &amp; Zimmerman</li> </ul>
2 Distribution outside R2	C	High. This species breeds from southeastern Colorado, south through western Texas, southern Arizona and New Mexico to southern Mexico.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ehrlich et al.</li> <li>• National Geographic Society</li> </ul>
3 Dispersal Capability	C	High. Population expansions and contractions have been documented over the past 150 years. This species is relatively mobile. They tend to move in roving flocks after the nesting season.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Andrews &amp; Righter</li> <li>• Busby &amp; Zimmerman</li> <li>• Kingery</li> </ul>
4 Abundance in R2	A	High. Small, relatively isolated populations are confined primarily to southeastern Colorado and southwestern Kansas. In southwestern Kansas only 12 known nest sites have been located and several of those are on or near the Cimarron National Grasslands. A significant percentage of the population in Colorado occurs on the Comanche National Grasslands.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Andrews &amp; Righter</li> <li>• Carter et al.</li> <li>• Busby &amp; Zimmerman</li> </ul>
5 Population Trend in R2	A	Low. The breeding bird survey shows nearly an eight percent decline from 1966 to 1999. However the amount of data is seriously lacking to provide accurate projections. One report observed a decline of 10 active nests in a colony to only one active nest in Colorado from 1990 to 1995. The Partners In Flight analysis shows a moderate decline for this species in R2.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carter et al.</li> <li>• Kingery</li> <li>• Breeding Bird Survey</li> </ul>
6 Habitat Trend in R2	C	High. Habitat trend is relatively stable and in abundance compared to current distribution. However during the nesting season their distribution may be limited by the availability of suitable trees and shrubs for nesting and the distribution of food sources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carter et al.</li> <li>• Kingery</li> <li>• Andrews &amp; Righter</li> </ul>
7 Habitat Vulnerability or Modification	C	High. Presently, broad scale threats to habitat are minimal. Loss of trees and shrubs for nesting may represent the greatest threat both on NFS and private lands.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kingery</li> <li>• Carter et al.</li> </ul>

Species: (Corvus cryptoleucus/Chihuahuan Raven)			
Criteria	Rank	Rationale	Literature Citations
8 Life History and Demographics	C	Medium. The Chihuahuan Raven nests in arid and semiarid grasslands and shrub lands Throughout the southwestern U.S. and Mexico. They can respond moderately well to disturbance. They usually produce 5 to 7 eggs per nest and consequently can be relatively productive when conditions are right. They only produce one brood per nesting season. Some reports suggest that the R2 population may migrate south to Mexico during the winter. Others report this species as a year round resident.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Andrews &amp; Righter</li> <li>Ehrlich et al.</li> </ul>
Evaluator(s): /S/ Dick Roth			Date: 06/18/01

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

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

<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.

## REFERENCES:

- Andrews, R. A., & R. Righter. 1992. Colorado birds. Denver Museum of Natural History. Denver, Co. Pp 246.
- Breeding Bird Survey. 2001. Breeding Bird Survey Trend Analysis 1966-1999. unpubl. Data, Breeding Bird Survey Off., Natl Biol. Serv., Patuzent Wildl. Res. Center, Laurel, MD.
- Busby, W.H, and J.L. Zimmerman. 2001. Kansas Breeding Bird Atlas. University Press of Kansas. Lawrence, Ka. Pp 268-269.
- Carter, M.F., Hunter, D.N. Pashley, and K.V. Rosenberg. 2000. Setting conservation priorities for landbirds in the United States: The Partners In Flight approach. *Auk*. 117:541-548.
- Ehrlich, P.R., D.S. Dobkin, and D. Wheye. 1988. *The birder's handbook: a field guide to the natural history of North American birds*. Simon and Schuster, New York. Pp 418.
- Kingery, H, E. (Ed). 1998. *The Colorado breeding bird atlas*. Denver, Co: Colorado Bird Atlas Partnership and Colorado Division of Wildlife. Pp 238-239.
- National Geographic Society. 1991. *Field Guide to the Birds of North America*. National Geographic Society, Washington, D.C. Pp 306.