

REGION 2 SENSITIVE SPECIES EVALUATION FORM

Species: STERNA HIRUNDO / COMMON TERN			
Criteria	Rank	Rationale	Literature Citations
1 Distribution within R2	D	Ranking criteria is not appropriate because Common Terns only exist as migrating populations in R2 and are not known to breed in the region. Since they are strictly migratory, their distribution within R2 is periodic and unpredictable. They can be found in aquatic habitats throughout R2, including marshes, lakes, reservoirs, rivers and streams, but are considered rare. Confidence in Rank High	1,2,4,5,6,8,9,10
2 Distribution outside R2	C	Entire breeding and wintering distribution outside of R2. Breeds north and east of R2 and winters throughout much of the eastern, midwestern, and west coast regions of the US and Mexico. Confidence in Rank High	8,9
3 Dispersal Capability	C	Short to medium distant migrant and the fact that Common Terns are often observed throughout the interior west during migration suggest that they have high dispersal capability. Confidence in Rank Medium	9
4 Abundance in R2	A	Only occurs during migration, but even then considered rare. Since they are migratory across the region and don't exist as a cohesive population, low abundance does not suggest that stochastic and other factors will lead to potential imperilment. Confidence in Rank High	•
5 Population Trend in R2	D	Population numbers are naturally low and variable in R2 during migration, which makes establishing real trends difficult. Because of colonial and gregarious nature of Terns and the fact that most individuals have passed through the region before surveys are conducted, trend and abundance estimations by BBS are not likely to be accurate. Confidence in Rank Medium	4
6 Habitat Trend in R2	C	Migratory stopover habitat (rivers, lakes, ponds, marshes) likely stable in R2. Since this Common Terns do not breed in the region habitat requirements are not as narrow as other tern and gull species that do. Many wetlands protected and loss of appropriate foraging wetlands possibly balanced by creation of reservoirs. Also, fish populations in many areas enhanced and maintained for sport. Confidence in Rank Medium	•

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7 Habitat Vulnerability or Modification	C	Migratory stopover habitat generally resilient due to reasons stated above. Confidence in Rank Medium	•
8 Life History and Demographics	D	Category not really applicable to a species only found during migration and all productivity and wintering occurs outside of R2. Confidence in Rank Medium	•
Initial Evaluator(s): Jason Bennett, Biologist, Wyoming Natural Diversity Database.			Date: 31 July 2001

Literature Citations:

- 1) Wyoming Natural Diversity Database, 2001.
- 2) Colorado GAP species distribution models: <http://ndis.nrel.colostate.edu/cogap/cogaphome.html>
- 3) 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.
- 4) Dorn, Jane L. and R.D. Dorn. 1990. Wyoming Birds. Mountain West Publishing, Cheyenne.
- 5) 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.
- 6) 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.
- 7) Colorado County Occurrence/Abundance Site. Accessed 12 July 2001. <http://ndis.nrel.colostate.edu/ndis/countyab/>
- 8) National Geographic Society. 1999. Field guide to the birds of North America. Third edition. National Geographic Society, Washington, D.C
- 9) Sibley, D. A. 2000. National Audubon Society the Sibley guide to birds. Alfred A. Knopf, New York, NY.
- 10) South Dakota GAP Analysis Program: <http://wfs.sdstate.edu/sdgap/sdgap.htm>

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

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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<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	
	M	Cimmaron NG		M	Samuel R. McKelvie NF			M	Shoshone NF	M
Arapaho-Roosevelt NF					Halsey NF			M	Bighorn NF	M
White River NF					Nebraska NF			W	Black Hills NF	M
Routt NF					Ogalala NG	M			Medicine Bow NF	M
Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, Gunnison NF										
San Juan NF									Thunder Basin NG	M
Rio Grande NF										
Pike-San Isabel NF										
Comanche NG	M									
Pawnee NG	M									