

ATTACHMENT SS2

REGION 2 SENSITIVE SPECIES EVALUATION FORM

Species: Sialia sialis/Eastern Bluebird						
Criteria	Rank	Rationale			Literature Citations	
<b>1</b> Distribution within R2	<b>B</b>	Extreme western periphery of range. In R2 prefers open, lowland habitat with little understory and sparse ground cover including: cottonwood riparian, eastern great plains grassland, pine-oak forest and edges, and agricultural areas. Patchy due to patchy distribution of habitat within R2 and extreme periphery of range- in some years birds may not be present. Confidence in Rank High			1,2,3,6,7	
<b>2</b> Distribution outside R2	<b>C</b>	Eastern species- wide distribution NE, E and SE of R2; from eastern Saskatchewan E to New Brunswick, S to Florida and W to New Mexico. Also foothills of Mexico and Central America. Confidence in Rank High			1	
<b>3</b> Dispersal Capability	<b>C</b>	Short-medium distant migrant. Will form large migratory flocks, juveniles often flock separate from adults. Long distance (> 500km) and medium distance (>100km) dispersal events documented and assumed not uncommon. Confidence in Rank High or Medium or Low			1	
<b>4</b> Abundance in R2	<b>B</b>	Uncommon to very rare summer resident in R2 of Wyoming and Colorado, uncommon to common in South Dakota and Nebraska. May not breed in some years on western periphery of range. Confidence in Rank High			1,2,5,7,8	
<b>5</b> Population Trend in R2	<b>B</b>	Region: FWS region 6	<b>Trend</b>	<b>P-value</b>	<b>Credibility</b>	1,2,4
		<b>1966-1999</b>	4.9	0.00	Med	
		<b>1966-1979</b>	-14.4	0.00	Med	
		<b>1980-1999</b>	9.2	0.00	Med	
		Population likely stable, although a population trend in R2 is difficult to assess because little prime habitat exists within R2. Also, R2 is extreme western periphery of range and subject to higher degree of population fluctuations. Confidence in Rank High or Medium or Low				

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Criteria	Rank	Rationale	Literature Citations
6 Habitat Trend in R2	B	Habitat trend likely stable, but also difficult to assess because eastern bluebirds use a variety of open woodland, grassland, and agricultural habitats. Agricultural and grassland habitats often maintained in R2 as national grasslands and pastures, but riparian woodland has been reduced and attrition of old trees that provide cavities and little regeneration due to intensive cattle grazing may cause problems. Also affecting habitat use is the availability of bluebird boxes, which in some areas may increase habitat availability of surrounding landscape Confidence in Rank Medium	1,2
7 Habitat Vulnerability or Modification	C	Cottonwood-riparian habitat may be vulnerable due to reasons stated above, but bluebird boxes are readily used and placement of boxes will increase habitat usability. Confidence in Rank Medium	1,2
8 Life History and Demographics	C	Females can have 2-4 broods per season and breed at 1yr. Clutch size 4-5, about 83% of eggs laid hatch, and 75-90% of hatchlings fledge. Overall nest success is 55-84% of nests. Relatively low annual survivorship- 40-50%. Previously very susceptible to competition for nesting cavities, but nest boxes with appropriate size entrance holes and appropriate placement reduces competition with European Starlings and House Sparrows. Confidence in Rank Medium	1
Initial Evaluator(s): Jason Bennett, Biologist, Wyoming Natural Diversity Database.			Date: 11 July 2001

Literature Citations:

- 1) Gowaty, P. A., and J. H. Plissner. 1998. Eastern Bluebird (*Sialia sialis*). In *The Birds of North America*, No. 381 (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).

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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			
		Cimmaron NG		Y	Samuel R. McKelvie NF		Y	Black Hills NF		Shoshone NF		
					Halsey NF		Y	Buffalo Gap NG		Bighorn NF		
					Nebraska NF		Y	Ft. Pierre NG		Black Hills NF		Y
					Ogalala NG					Medicine Bow NF		Y
										Thunder Basin NG		
	Y											

Birds may not occur every year

<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.