

REGION 2 SENSITIVE SPECIES EVALUATION FORM

Species: (Sterna forsteri/Forester's Tern)

Criteria	Rank	Rationale	Literature Citations
1 Distribution within R2	C	High. The Foresters Tern is a common and widely distributed nester in Wyoming. It is a locally common nester in eastern South Dakota and the sandhills of Nebraska. It is a rare and local breeder in the San Luis Valley and North Park in Colorado and a breeder at one location in central Kansas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Andrews & Righter • Busby & Zimmerman • Kingery et al. • Oakleaf et al. • Scott • SDOU • Sharpe et al.
2 Distribution outside R2	C	High. They nest in freshwater marshes and lake shores throughout the western United States and southern Canada. More than 99 percent of the global population breeds outside R2.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carter et al • Peterson
3 Dispersal Capability	C	High. This species migrates long distances to wintering grounds and would have no problem dispersing across landscapes to find suitable habitats.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ehrlich et al.
4 Abundance in R2	C	High. This species is common and widely distributed in Wyoming, eastern South Dakota and central Nebraska. It is uncommon to rare and local in other parts of R2. Less than one percent of the global population occurs in R2.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Andrews & Righter • Busby & Zimmerman • Kingery et al. • Oakleaf et al. • Scott • SDOU • Sharpe et al.
5 Population Trend in R2	D	Low. The population in R2 appears to be declining, but the trend data is not clear.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carter et al.
6 Habitat Trend in R2	B	High. The majority of the nesting habitat is on private lands and water fluctuations during nesting may be causing losses in some areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carter et al.

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7 Habitat Vulnerability or Modification	B	High. The majority of the nesting habitat is on private lands and potential dewatering of nesting wetlands would cause a loss in nesting habitat.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carter et al. Ehrlich et al.
8 Life History and Demographics	C	High. This species breeds in freshwater marshes and marshy borders of lakes. They generally produce three eggs per nest and only produce one brood per nesting season. They often nest in loose colonies associated with yellow-headed blackbirds. Nests are occasionally parasitized by coots. They winter south to Guatemala and the Bahamas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ehrlich et al.
Evaluator(s): /S/ Dick Roth			Date: 7/30/01

National Forests in the Rocky Mountain Region where species is KNOWN (K) or LIKELY (L)¹ 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
	O	Cimarron NG		Samuel R. McKelvie NF	B	Black Hills NF		Shoshone NF	O
	O			Halsey NF	B	Buffalo Gap NG	O	Bighorn NF	O
	O			Nebraska NF	O	Ft. Pierre NG	B	Black Hills NF	O
	O			Oglala NG	O			Medicine Bow NF	B
	O							Thunder Basin NG	O
	O								
	O								
	O								
	O								
	O								

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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