

ATTACHMENT SS2

REGION 2 SENSITIVE SPECIES EVALUATION FORM

Species: LARUS ARGENTATUS/HERRING GULL			
Criteria	Rank	Rationale	Literature Citations
1 Distribution within R2	B	Herring Gulls can be found throughout R2 during migration and winter in eastern Colorado and southern Kansas, but are relatively rare and patchy in their distribution. Utilizes lakes, reservoirs, rivers, refuse dumps near open water and scavenges in many lower elevation open habitats. Confidence in Rank High	1,2,3,6,7,8,9,10
2 Distribution outside R2	C	Nearly entire distribution outside of R2. Eastern Colorado and southern Kansas represent the NW periphery of the SE wintering population of Herring Gulls. Individuals or groups can be commonly found passing through R2 during migration, but breed in the Great Lakes area, northern Canada and Alaska. Confidence in Rank High	1
3 Dispersal Capability	C	Due to its medium distance migration and wide ranging movements, dispersal capability of Herring Gulls is likely high. Also, only a winter population exists for R2 and therefore individuals likely have large movements in response to food availability and population does not likely consist of the same individuals year-to-year. Category may not be useful for a wide-ranging winter resident or migrant. Confidence in Rank High	1,2
4 Abundance in R2	A	Herring Gulls are rare-uncommon in R2 only because the region is peripheral to their range and habitat is not extensive within R2. Stochastic or other factors will not likely lead to rapid extinction Confidence in Rank Medium	1,2,3,5,6,7,8,9,10
5 Population Trend in R2	D	Population numbers are naturally low and variable in R2, which makes establishing real trends difficult. Because of colonial and gregarious nature of California Gulls, trend and abundance estimations by BBS are not likely to be accurate. Range-wide population increases attributed to bird conservation efforts, increased fishing activity, decrease in the amount of competition with marine mammals (which have been extirpated from many areas), and increased availability of food on wintering grounds (mainly dumps). Since population trend across range is stable, population trend in R2 is probably stable as well. Confidence in Rank Medium	1,4
6 Habitat Trend in R2	B	Habitat used during migration- lakes, reservoirs, wetlands, rivers, agricultural fields- is likely stable. Herring Gulls also use refuse dumps during winter, and this habitat is likely increasing across the region due to increased human development. Confidence in Rank Medium	1

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7 Habitat Vulnerability or Modification	C	Due to the fact that many habitats that are used are human altered or created, habitat is resilient. Confidence in Rank Medium	1,2
8 Life History and Demographics	C	Herring Gulls rebounded quickly from historic lows around the turn of the century (caused by human persecution) and are currently slowly expanding their range. This is strong evidence that populations have a high ability to respond to disturbance. Confidence in Rank High or Medium or Low	1
Initial Evaluator(s): Jason Bennett, Biologist, Wyoming Natural Diversity Database.			Date: 27 July 2001

Literature Citations:

- 1) Pierotti, R. J., and T. P. Good. 1994. Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*). In The Birds of North America, No. 124 (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/>
- 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
Arapaho-Roosevelt NF	*	Cimmaron NG	*	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				Ogalala NG				Medicine Bow NF	
San Juan NF								Thunder Basin NG	
Rio Grande NF									
Pike-San Isabel NF									
Comanche NG	*								
Pawnee NG	*								

*Likely during winter

Herring Gulls may be observed across the region during migration