

REGION 2 SENSITIVE SPECIES EVALUATION FORM

Species: (Rallus elegans/King Rail)

Criteria	Rank	Rationale	Literature Citations
1 Distribution within R2	A	High. R2 is on the western periphery of this species range. They are rare spring and summer visitors to South Dakota, Nebraska and Kansas. They are an unlikely breeder on any NFS units.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Andrews &amp; Righter</li> <li>• SDOU</li> <li>• Busby &amp; Zimmerman</li> <li>• Sharpe et al.</li> </ul>
2 Distribution outside R2	C	High. This species is uncommon, but widely distributed in suitable habitat in the eastern U.S.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ehrlich et al.</li> <li>• National Geographic Society`</li> </ul>
3 Dispersal Capability	B	High. Species disperses through suitable habitat, but unlikely to expand west in R2. Winters south to central Mexico and Cuba.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Peterson</li> <li>• Ehrlich et al.</li> </ul>
4 Abundance in R2	A	High. Rare occurrences on eastern units in South Dakota.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Peterson</li> <li>• SDOU</li> </ul>
5 Population Trend in R2	D	Low. Population data is not available for R2.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carter et al.</li> </ul>
6 Habitat Trend in R2	B	High. Suitable fresh water marsh habitat on NFS units in R2 will likely remain unchanged. Development activities may threaten this habitat in some areas on private lands.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carter et al.</li> <li>• SDOU</li> <li>• Sharpe et al.</li> </ul>
7 Habitat Vulnerability or Modification	B	Medium. The Clean Water Act and other protective measures help to insure against habitat loss on private lands. Fresh water marsh habitat on NFS lands should be protected from actions and activities that cause their quality to deteriorate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carter et al.</li> </ul>

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8 Life History and Demographics	C	Medium. Little is known about the reproductive rate of this species in R2. In traditional range they produce 10-12 eggs per nest and often return to the same nesting area in succeeding years. Past population declines have been experienced due to wetland habitat loss and pesticide contamination. The global population appears to be low, but stable.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Andrews &amp; Righter</li> <li>• Ehrlich et al</li> </ul>
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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
Arapaho-Roosevelt NF		Cimarron NG		Samuel R.McKelvie NF	O	Black Hills NF		Shoshone NF	
White River NF				Halsey NF	O	Buffalo Gap NG		Bighorn NF	
Routt NF				Nebraska NF		Ft. Pierre NG	O	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									
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:

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- 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. 785pp
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- Peterson, R.T. 1990. A field guide to western birds. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Houghton Mifflin, Boston. 432pp
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