

REGION 2 SENSITIVE SPECIES EVALUATION FORM

Species: (Sterna antillarum/Least Tern)			
Criteria	Rank	Rationale	Literature Citations
1 Distribution within R2	B	High. This species has been recorded nesting in only three locations in eastern Colorado and is uncommon in suitable habitats in South Dakota and is rare in Wyoming. It is a locally common nester and common migrant in Nebraska. It is rare in central and eastern Kansas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kingery • Busby & Zimmerman • Oakleaf et al. • SDOU • Sharpe et al.
2 Distribution outside R2	C	High. They are fairly common and local on the east coast and Gulf coast, less common and declining inland. They winter from Central America south. More than 99 percent of the population occurs outside R2.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Geographic Society • Ehrlich et al. • Carter et al.
3 Dispersal Capability	C	High. This species is highly mobile and travels long distances between summer and winter habitats.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ehrlich et al.
4 Abundance in R2	B	Moderate. They are fairly broadly distributed but in low numbers in R2. R2 contains less than one percent of the total global population.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carter et al. • Kingery • Sharpe et al.
5 Population Trend in R2	A	Moderate. Available population trend data suggest that this species is in a moderate decline.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carter et al.
6 Habitat Trend in R2	A	High. Available data suggests that the available habitat for this species is declining. The majority of the nesting habitat is off NFS lands.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caarter et al
7 Habitat Vulnerability or Modification	A	High. This species nests on sand bars along larger streams and along open sandy beaches of larger reservoirs and lakes. The greatest threat to their nesting habitat is disturbance from human recreational activity and water withdrawal activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carter et al. • Kingery • Sharpe et al.

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8 Life History and Demographics	A	High. This species lays two eggs per nest and sometimes produces two broods per nesting season. They are declining in most areas. Depredation by cats, rats and humans often cause colony declines.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ehrlich et al. Burton
Evaluator(s): Dick Roth			Date: 7/25/01

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			
Arapaho-Roosevelt NF		Cimarron NG		O	Samuel R.McKelvie NF		O	Black Hills NF		Shoshone NF		
White River NF					Halsey NF		O	Buffalo Gap NG		O	Bighorn NF	
Routt NF					Nebraska NF		O	Ft. Pierre NG		B	Black Hills NF	
Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, Gunnison NF					Oglala NG		O				Medicine Bow NF	
San Juan NF											Thunder Basin NG	
Rio Grande NF												
Pike-San Isabel NF												
Comanche NG		O										
Pawnee NG												

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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