

REGION 2 SENSITIVE SPECIES EVALUATION FORM

Species: Long-eared owl (*Asio otus*)

Criteria	Rank	Rationale	Literature Citations
1 Distribution within R2	B	The long-eared owl is distributed throughout Region 2.  Confidence in Rank <b>High</b> or <b>Medium</b> or <b>Low</b>	•
2 Distribution outside R2	C	The long-eared owl has an extensive distribution. BREEDS: southern and eastern British Columbia to northern Saskatchewan and Prince Edward Island, south to northwestern Baja California, southern New Mexico, northern Mexico, Arkansas, and Virginia. WINTERS: southern Canada to northern Baja California, central Mexico, and Gulf Coast. Also in Old World.  Confidence in Rank <b>High</b> or <b>Medium</b> or <b>Low</b>	•
3 Dispersal Capability	C	There are no known impediments to dispersal for the long-eared owl.  Confidence in Rank <b>High</b> or <b>Medium</b> or <b>Low</b>	•
4 Abundance in R2	D	There are no data on the abundance of the long-eared owl in Region 2 or elsewhere in the U.S. Guesstimated number of breeding pairs in Canada in the early 1990s was 10,000-20,000 (Kirk et al. 1995).  Confidence in Rank <b>High</b> or <b>Medium</b> or <b>Low</b>	• <a href="http://www.natureserve.org">www.natureserve.org</a>
5 Population Trend in R2	D	Trends are difficult to ascertain. Reported as "stable; little data available" in Canada (Kirk et al. 1995). Nevertheless, the species is viewed as vulnerable in South Dakota and Colorado, imperiled in Kansas, and apparently secure in Nebraska and Wyoming.  Confidence in Rank <b>High</b> or <b>Medium</b> or <b>Low</b>	• <a href="http://www.natureserve.org">www.natureserve.org</a>

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<p><b>6</b> Habitat Trend in R2</p>	<p><b>D</b></p>	<p>The long-eared owl utilizes deciduous and evergreen forests, orchards, wooded parks, farm woodlots, river woods, desert oases. Wooded areas with dense vegetation needed for roosting and nesting, open areas for hunting. Often associated with conifers in eastern North America, also with deciduous woods near water in West. Nests in tree usually in old nest of crow, squirrel, hawk, magpie, or heron; sometimes in tree cavity; rarely on ground (e.g., Maples et al. 1995, Wilson Bull. 107:563-565). In northeastern Oregon, nested in dwarf-mistletoe brooms in Douglas-fir in extensive conifer (grand fir) forest (Bull et al. 1989). Apparently commonly nests in same site in successive years. In Idaho, 4 males nested 0.5-1.5 km from natal site. There is no data on habitat trends for this opportunistic nesting owl.</p> <p>Confidence in Rank <b>High</b> or Medium or Low</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="http://www.natureserve.org">www.natureserve.org</a></li> </ul>
<p><b>7</b> Habitat Vulnerability or Modification</p>	<p><b>D</b></p>	<p>The long-eared owl is moderately widespread or widespread with spotty distribution throughout North America. No specific habitat problems have been identified for the long-eared owl.</p> <p>Confidence in Rank <b>High</b> or Medium or Low</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>
<p><b>8</b> Life History and Demographics</p>	<p><b>D</b></p>	<p>Confidence in Rank <b>High</b> or Medium or Low</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>
<p>Initial Evaluator(s): John Sidle</p>			<p>Date: 7/10/01</p>

**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>	Known	Likely	<u>Kansas NF/NG</u>	Known	Likely	<u>Nebraska NF/NG</u>	Known	Likely	<u>South Dakota NF/NG</u>	Known	Likely	<u>Wyoming NF/NG</u>	Known	Likely
Arapaho-Roosevelt NF	K		Cimmaron NG	K		Samuel R.McKelvie NF		L	Black Hills NF	K		Shoshone NF		L
White River NF		L				Halsey NF		L	Buffalo Gap NG	K		Bighorn NF		L
Routt NF		L				Nebraska NF	K		Ft. Pierre NG		L	Black Hills NF	K	
Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, Gunnison NF		L				Ogalala NG		L				Medicine Bow NF	K	
San Juan NF		L										Thunder Basin NG	K	
Rio Grande NF		L												
Pike-San Isabel NF	K													
Comanche NG	K													

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<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.

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