

ATTACHMENT SS2

REGION 2 SENSITIVE SPECIES EVALUATION FORM

Species: (Scientific Name/Common Name/National Code for Plants – USDA PLANTS) <i>Ictinia mississippiensis</i> / Mississippi Kite			
Criteria	Rank	Rationale	Literature Citations
1 Distribution within R2	A	<p>Species has a very limited distribution mainly in the southeastern areas of R2. Most of the R2 area is not occupied by this species and is past the northern limits of its distribution in North America. It is ranked as critically imperiled in CO during the breeding season and has been observed as an uncommon summer resident at Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site in La Junta, CO. It is listed as accidental in WY, possibly imperiled but unknown status in SD, accidental in NE, and apparently secure in KS.</p> <p>Confidence in Rank <u>High</u> or Medium or Low</p>	<p>Clark, W.S. and Wheeler, B.K. 1987. A Field Guide to Hawks, North America. The Peterson Field Guide Series.</p> <p>Sibley, Ch. and B. Monroe, Jr. 1990. Distribution and Taxonomy of Birds of the World. Yale University Press. New Haven & London. 1111 p.</p> <p>NatureServe: An online encyclopedia of life [web application]. 2001. Version 1.4. Arlington, Virginia, USA: Association for Biodiversity Information. Available: http://www.natureserve.org/.</p>
2 Distribution outside R2	C	<p>Species is widely distributed outside the R2 area and it breeds from southeastern Colorado and Kansas eastward through southern Illinois and the Carolinas, and southward to the Southwest and the Gulf Coast states; it winters mainly in South America, with scattered reports northward to southern Texas., especially southern U.S. into central and south America. The core breeding areas identified from the Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) suggest that south central KS across central and western OK and into northern TX is the largest breeding area followed by southern LA. This species is sensitive in R3 (NM and AZ).</p> <p>Confidence in Rank <u>High</u> or Medium or Low</p>	<p>Clark, W.S. and Wheeler, B.K. 1987. A Field Guide to Hawks, North America. The Peterson Field Guide Series.</p> <p>Sibley, Ch. and B. Monroe, Jr. 1990. Distribution and Taxonomy of Birds of the World. Yale University Press. New Haven & London. 1111 p.</p> <p>NatureServe: An online encyclopedia of life [web application]. 2001. Version 1.4. Arlington, Virginia, USA: Association for Biodiversity Information. Available: http://www.natureserve.org/.</p>

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3 Dispersal Capability	B	<p>Species is closely associated with forest habitats, and its range has expanded as trees have been planted in parts of the great plains for erosion control. Therefore it is limited to forest habitats during dispersal, thus limiting range expansion across vast areas of prairie common in the western U.S.</p> <p>Confidence in Rank <u>High</u> or <u>Medium</u> or Low</p>	<p>Oberholser, H. C. 1974. The Bird Life of Texas. Univ. of Texas Press, Austin. 2 vols., xxviii+1069 pp.</p> <p>Palmer, R.S. 1988. Handbook of North American birds. Vol. 4. Yale University Press New Haven, CT, USA.</p> <p>Fitch, HJ.S. 1963. Observations on the Mississippi Kite in southwestern Kansas. University of Kansas Publication, Museum of Natural History, 12:503-519.</p>
4 Abundance in R2	B	<p>Species is absent from Northern Rockies mountain area and badlands and prairies areas within R2. It is uncommon in the short grass prairie areas but it is highly abundant in selected mixed grass prairie areas.</p> <p>Confidence in Rank <u>High</u> or <u>Medium</u> or Low</p>	<p>Partners in Flight. 2001. Rocky Mountain Observatory Data. www.rmbo.org/</p>
5 Population Trend in R2	A	<p>Population trend is unknown in short grass habitat areas within the R2, but it is possibly decreasing in the mixed grass prairie areas within R2.</p> <p>Confidence in Rank <u>High</u> or <u>Medium</u> or Low</p>	<p>Partners in Flight. 2001. Rocky Mountain Observatory Data. www.rmbo.org/</p>
6 Habitat Trend in R2	C	<p>There is some evidence of range expansion westward for this species that is possibly influenced by tree planting in the prairies to control erosion. Therefore potential habitat may be increasing in selected areas on the southeastern edges of the R2.</p> <p>Confidence in Rank <u>High</u> or <u>Medium</u> or Low</p>	<p>Palmer, R.S. 1988. Handbook of North American birds. Vol. 4. Yale University Press New Haven, CT, USA.</p>

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7 Habitat Vulnerability or Modification	B	<p>Estimates suggest that breeding habitat is somewhat vulnerable in short grass and mixed grass areas within the R2. Mississippi kites require extensive mature bottomland forest interspersed with openings, such areas with nesting birds should be managed to prevent disturbances during nesting . This species could be impacted by destruction of riparian deciduous forests and woodlands. It also could be impacted by degradation due to overgrazing of riparian deciduous forests and woodlands. Since kites feed heavily on insects, use of insecticides should be regulated. Clearing for row crops has adversely affected this species through loss of habitat. Although clearing has had a positive effect by providing additional areas for foraging, shooting in these cleared areas has apparently adversely affected populations in past. Kite nesting colonies can tolerate extensive human activity, even some tree cutting.</p> <p>Confidence in Rank <u>High</u> or <u>Medium</u> or Low</p>	<p>Parker, J.W. and J.C. Ogden. 1979. The recent history and status of the Mississippi Kite. American Birds 33:119-129.</p> <p>Partners in Flight. 2001. Rocky Mountain Observatory Data. www.rmbo.org/</p>
8 Life History and Demographics	B	<p>Relatively low reproductive rate with annual broods averaging 1-2 young per clutch. Research evidence indicates that this species is vulnerable to the effects of certain pesticides e.g. DDT since this species primarily feeds on flying insects. This species may be exposed to these pesticides in central or south America during winter migrations. Major mortality factors include strong winds, usually associated with summer thunderstorms, that blow out nestlings and destroy nests, and eggs and nestling predators including great horned owls (<i>Bubo virginianus</i>) and raccoons (<i>Procyon lotor</i>)</p> <p>Confidence in Rank <u>High</u> or <u>Medium</u> or Low</p>	<p>Parker, J.W. 1976. Pesticides and eggshell thinning in the Mississippi Kite. Journal of Wildlife Management, 40:243-248.</p> <p>Palmer, R.S. 1988. Handbook of North American birds. Vol. 4. Yale University Press New Haven, CT, USA.</p> <p>Wischusen, E. W. 1998. Rates of open-field foraging by the Mississippi Kite (<i>Ictinia mississippiensis</i>). Journal of Raptor Research, 32(3):246-247.</p>
Evaluator(s): Stan Anderson and Matt McGee			Date: 7-10-00

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

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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	*								

appearing on NFS lands.