

REGION 2 SENSITIVE SPECIES EVALUATION FORM

Species: GLAUCIDIUM GNOMA / NORTHERN PYGMY OWL			
Criteria	Rank	Rationale	Literature Citations
<b>1</b> Distribution within R2	<b>B</b>	Northern Pygmy Owls are generally found in various structured coniferous and deciduous forests (including wooded canyons in dryer areas) in middle to middle-high elevations. Usually found in the vicinity of meadows or other sizable openings in the forest and not likely to occur in the interior of unbroken dense forests. During the winter months some may be forced to lower elevations, including prairie foothills sometimes well away from forested areas. Habitat distribution naturally patchy, often with corridors. In R2 breeds in Colorado and NW Wyoming. Confidence in Rank Medium	1,2,4,5,6,7,8,9,10
<b>2</b> Distribution outside R2	<b>C</b>	Wide distribution outside of R2 ranging throughout much of the coniferous and mixed forests of the Western States, British Columbia and Mexico. R2 is the eastern periphery of the Northern Pygmy-Owl's range. Confidence in Rank High	8,9,10
<b>3</b> Dispersal Capability	<b>C</b>	Rank based on dispersal capability of other small to mid-sized owls and the fact that Northern Pygmy-Owls occupy nearly all appropriate habitat in the west (although rare or irregular resident throughout range). Confidence in Rank Medium	1,8,9
<b>4</b> Abundance in R2	<b>A</b>	Although not likely adequately surveyed in the region, considered rare year-round resident in NW Wyoming and rare throughout forested areas of R2 in Colorado. Confidence in Rank Medium	1,2,7
<b>5</b> Population Trend in R2	<b>D</b>	BBS data is insufficient for surveying owls. Pygmy owls are not adequately or consistently surveyed across the region and therefore determination of reliable trend is difficult. It is unclear what role logging practices have on this species. Partial forest clearing may create more ideal foraging habitat by fragmentation, but may also reduce prey abundance and nest availability in some areas. Confidence in Rank Medium	1,4,10
<b>6</b> Habitat Trend in R2	<b>B</b>	Northern Pygmy-Owls are tolerant of low to moderate human activity (logging, recreation etc.) and use a broad range of habitats in R2. For this reason some habitat changes may not affect Pygmy-Owls to a large degree and therefore habitat trend is likely stable. Confidence in Rank Medium	1,10

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7 Habitat Vulnerability or Modification	C	Habitat resilient for reasons stated above.  Confidence in Rank Medium	•
8 Life History and Demographics	B	Pygmy-Owls are largely dependent on woodpecker-excavated cavities for nesting and this may limit their distribution in some areas. They also have relatively small broods-ave. 3, range 2-5. Reproductive rate and survivorship need to be investigated.  Confidence in Rank Medium	10
Initial Evaluator(s): Jason Bennett, Biologist, Wyoming Natural Diversity Database.			Date: 30 July 2001

Literature Citations:

- 1) Wyoming Natural Diversity Database, 2001.
- 2) Colorado GAP species distribution models: <http://ndis.nrel.colostate.edu/cogap/cogaphome.html>
- 3) 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.
- 4) Dorn, Jane L. and R.D. Dorn. 1990. Wyoming Birds. Mountain West Publishing, Cheyenne.
- 5) 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.
- 6) 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.
- 7) Colorado County Occurrence/Abundance Site. Accessed 12 July 2001. <http://ndis.nrel.colostate.edu/ndis/countyab/>
- 8) National Geographic Society. 1999. Field guide to the birds of North America. Third edition. National Geographic Society, Washington, D.C
- 9) Sibley, D. A. 2000. National Audubon Society the Sibley guide to birds. Alfred A. Knopf, New York, NY.
- 10) Johnsgard, P. A. 1988. North American owls; biology and natural history. Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington D. C.

**National Forests in the Rocky Mountain Region where species is KNOWN (K) or LIKELY(L)<sup>1</sup> to occur:**

<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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<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	Y		Cimmaron NG			Samuel R. McKelvie NF			Black Hills NF			Shoshone NF		Y
White River NF	Y					Halsey NF			Buffalo Gap NG			Bighorn NF		
Routt NF	Y					Nebraska NF			Ft. Pierre NG			Black Hills NF		
Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, Gunnison NF	Y					Ogalala NG						Medicine Bow NF		
San Juan NF	Y											Thunder Basin NG		
Rio Grande NF	Y													
Pike-San Isabel NF	Y													
Comanche NG														

Presence in Colorado based on Colorado Gap Analysis species models and Colorado County Occurrence/Abundance Web Site.