

ATTACHMENT SS2

REVISED 7/31/01

REGION 2 SENSITIVE SPECIES EVALUATION FORM

Species: (Grus canadensis/Sandhill Crane)			
Criteria	Rank	Rationale	Literature Citations
1 Distribution within R2	C	High. The mid-continent population of Sandhill Cranes migrates through Kansas, Nebraska and South Dakota. This population contains a mix of three subspecies including Grus canadensis canadensis, G. c. tabida, and G. c. rowani.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SDOU • Sharpe et al. • Tacha et al.
2 Distribution outside R2	C	High. This species nests in Siberia, Alaska, Canada and states around the Great Lakes and around the north Central Rocky Mountains west to Oregon. It also nests in the southeast U.S., Cuba and the Isle of Pines. There are six subspecies of the Sandhill Crane. The Greater Sandhill Crane nests in R2 and is covered in a previous section. The tabida sub-species in this population are probably from populations that nest outside the region.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Geographic Society • Tacha et al.
3 Dispersal Capability	C	High. This species migrates long distances between summer and winter ranges and is quite capable of dispersing across landscapes to find suitable habitats.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tacha et al.
4 Abundance in R2	C	High. The mid-continent population has remained between 510,000 and 560,000 for the past 20 years. The majority of this population is off NFS lands.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tacha et al. • Sharp & Dubovsky
5 Population Trend in R2	C	High. This population has been showing an increase over the past 20 years.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tacha et al.
6 Habitat Trend in R2	C	High. The habitat for this population has remained relatively stable. The majority of the migratory habitat is off NFS lands.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tacha et al.
7 Habitat Vulnerability or Modification	C	High. Agricultural fields and open wetlands along the Platte River and other streams that dissecting the Great Plains likely will not have major changes in the future.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tacha et al.

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Criteria	Rank	Rationale	Literature Citations
8 Life History and Demographics	C	High. The six sub-species of the Sandhill Crane nests in Siberia, Alaska, Canada, around the Great Lakes, in the Rocky Mountains west to Oregon and the Southeast U.S. south to Cuba. These birds are long lived (20+ years). They do not breed until they are two to seven years old. They produce two eggs per nest, but usually only raise one chick to maturity. This population migrates through the eastern portions of R2 and winters in southern New Mexico and Texas south to southern Mexico.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tacha et al.
Evaluator(s): Dick Roth			Date: 7/31/01

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		O	Shoshone NF		
White River NF					Halsey NF		O	Buffalo Gap NG		O	Bighorn NF		
Routt NF					Nebraska NF		O	Ft. Pierre NG		O	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													
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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REFERENCES:

National Geographic Society. 1991. Field Guide to the Birds of North America. National Geographic Society, Washington, D.C. Pp 58.

The South Dakota Ornithologists' Union. 1991. The Birds of South Dakota. Northern State University Press. Aberdeen, SD. Pp 107.

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Sharp, D.E., J.A. Dubovsky. 2001. Population Status and Harvests Mid-continent and Rocky Mountain Populations of Sandhill Cranes, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Div. Of Migratory Bird Mgt. Denver, Co. 27pp.

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