

ATTACHMENT SS2

REGION 2 SENSITIVE SPECIES EVALUATION FORM

Species: (Astragalus missouriensis var. humistratus/Missouri Milk-Vetch/ASMIH2)			
Criteria	Rank	Rationale	Literature Citations
1 Distribution within R2	A	<i>Astragalus missouriensis</i> var. <i>humistratus</i> is endemic to Colorado, known only from Archuleta and La Plata counties in the San Juan basin of southwestern Colorado. It occurs in flat shale meadows and on shallow slopes, including roadsides and other disturbed areas. It likely occurs in the San Juan NF and possibly on the Southern Ute Indian Reservation or on private lands. Confidence in Rank High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CNHP EO records (received September 2002) • NatureServe Explorer 2001 • Weber 1987
2 Distribution outside R2	A	This variety of Missouri milk-vetch is a Colorado endemic and has no known distribution beyond R2. Confidence in Rank High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • USDA, NRCS 2002
3 Dispersal Capability	B	The genus <i>Astragalus</i> reproduces by seed and generally produces large, heavy seeds that do not disperse readily across landscapes. Given the habitat and known location of existing populations, dispersal of the species likely occurs by water transport during monsoonal summer storms. Confidence in Rank Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Musil 1963
4 Abundance in R2	A	Of the 4 elemental occurrences, 1 is an historical record, 1 record provides no population data, and 2 were field reviewed with a combined population estimate of 900 individuals Confidence in Rank High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CNHP EO records (received September 2002)
5 Population Trend in R2	D	There is not enough information from the known occurrences to conclude whether population trends are increasing, decreasing, or stable. Confidence in Rank Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CNHP EO records (received September 2002)

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Criteria	Rank	Rationale	Literature Citations
6 Habitat Trend in R2	B	There appears to be stable amounts of suitable habitat or potential habitat within grassland units of the San Juan NF. Available suitable habitat on adjacent tribal and private lands may be more prone and vulnerable to various disturbances as the lands are typically perceived to be unaesthetic, unproductive wastelands. Confidence in Rank LOW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CNPS 1989 • FS Data 2002
7 Habitat Vulnerability or Modification	C	Disturbed areas along roadsides are common in the region. Confidence in Rank LOW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No reference
8 Life History and Demographics	C	The thick and hard seedcoats of <i>Astragalus</i> is a Fabaceae family trait rendering the seeds impervious to water without sufficient disturbance to the seed coat for germination. Response of the species to disturbance may be favorable. Confidence in Rank Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Musil 1963
Evaluator(s): Paula Durkin			Date: September 17, 2002

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 appearing on NFS lands.

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Species Name:											
<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	Known	Likely
		Cimarron NG		Samuel R. McKelvie NF		Black Hills NF		Shoshone NF			
				Halsey NF		Buffalo Gap NG		Bighorn NF			
				Nebraska NF		Ft. Pierre NG		Black Hills NF			
				Ogalala NG				Medicine Bow NF			
	X							Thunder Basin NG			

CNHP 2002. Colorado Natural Heritage Program Element Occurrence Record for *Astragalus missouriensis* var. *humistratus* (Missouri milk-vetch) received September 2002. Colorado State University, Ft. Collins, CO.

CNPS. 1989. Rare Plants of Colorado. Published in cooperation with the Rocky Mountain Nature Association and the Colorado Native Plant Society.

FS Data 2002. Location notes for *Astragalus missouriensis* var. *humistratus*. USDA Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Region (R2).

Musil, A. 1963. Identification of Crop and Weed Seeds. Agricultural Handbook No. 219 (reprinted September 1978). U.S. Department of Agriculture Agricultural Marketing Service. Washington, DC.

NatureServe Explorer: An online encyclopedia of life [web application]. 2001. Version 1.6. Arlington, Virginia, USA: NatureServe. Available: <http://www.natureserve.org/explorer>. (Accessed: September 29, 2002).

USDA, NRCS. 2002. The PLANTS Database, Version 3.5 (<http://plants.usda.gov>). National Plant Data Center, Baton Rouge, LA 70874-4490 USA.

Weber, W.A. 1987. Colorado Flora: Western Slope. Colorado Associated University Press. Boulder, CO.