

ATTACHMENT SS2

REGION 2 SENSITIVE SPECIES EVALUATION FORM

Species: *Salix myrtillifolia var. myrtillifolia* / Myrtle-leaf Willow

Criteria	Rank	Rationale	Literature Citations
1 Distribution within R2	AD	<p>Myrtle-leaf Willow occurs in the Absaroka Range in Park County, Wyoming, on the <i>Shoshone National Forest</i>. It also occurs in Colorado where it was "recently discovered in a calcareous fen on the east base of the Mosquito Range in South Park" of eastern Colorado (Weber and Wittmann 2001).</p> <p>This taxon is found along lake and stream banks, and in floodplain thickets, muskegs, bogs, and moist white spruce forests. The Wyoming population occurs at 6,600 feet. Its specialized habitat is very patchy and discontinuous in the state and its range is limited.</p> <p>Confidence in Rank High</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Colorado Native Plant Society 1997</li> <li>• Dorn 1997, 2001</li> <li>• Evert et al. 1986</li> <li>• Fertig 1995, 1998, 2000a, b</li> <li>• Fertig and Jones 1992</li> <li>• Fertig and Markow 1998</li> <li>• Fertig et al. 1994</li> <li>• University of Wyoming 1998</li> <li>• Weber and Wittmann 2001</li> <li>• Welp et al. 2000</li> </ul>
2 Distribution outside R2	B	<p>Myrtle-leaf Willow is known from Alaska to Newfoundland, south to Alberta and Manitoba. It is disjunct in northern Wyoming and central Colorado.</p> <p>Confidence in Rank High</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dorn 1997</li> <li>• Evert et al. 1986</li> <li>• Fertig 2000b</li> <li>• Porsild and Cody 1980</li> <li>• Sanderson and March 1996</li> <li>• Spackman et al. 1997</li> </ul>
3 Dispersal Capability	C	<p>Myrtle-leaf Willow's seed is transported by wind, allowing it to disperse readily across unsuitable habitat.</p> <p>Confidence in Rank High</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dorn 1997</li> <li>• Porsild and Cody 1980</li> </ul>
4 Abundance in R2	AD	<p>Myrtle-leaf Willow is known from a single population in Wyoming, on the Shoshone National Forest. It was last surveyed in 1992. The population is extremely small and limited to an area of less than 5 acres. Only pistillate individuals have been found at the site, indicating that the colony may not be capable of sexual reproduction (without pollen-producing staminate plants in the colony, no fruits or seeds can be produced). This taxon is ranked "S1" in Wyoming.</p> <p>Confidence in Rank High</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dorn 1997</li> <li>• Evert et al. 1986</li> <li>• Fertig 2000b</li> <li>• USDA Forest Service 2001</li> <li>• WYNDD 2002</li> </ul>

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Species: <i>Salix myrtilifolia</i> var. <i>myrtilifolia</i> / Myrtle-leaf Willow			
Criteria	Rank	Rationale	Literature Citations
5 Population Trend in R2	AD	Trend data are not available, but in the absence of evidence of sexual reproduction, the long-term trends for the taxon in Wyoming are probably poor. The colony may be able to maintain itself in the short term, however, through asexual reproduction. It is not known how long this colony has been present (it could potentially be a glacial relict).  Confidence in Rank High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evert et al. 1986</li> <li>• Fertig 2000b</li> <li>• WYNDD 2002</li> </ul>
6 Habitat Trend in R2	D	Not known.  Confidence in Rank High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• -</li> </ul>
7 Habitat Vulnerability or Modification	BD	Myrtle-leaf Willow may be threatened by browsing from native species and trespass cows and horses. The apparent lack of staminate individuals may prevent sexual reproduction and further spread into new microsites. This taxon occurs only in the Swamp Lake Special Botanical Area on the Shoshone National Forest in Wyoming.  Confidence in Rank High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fertig 2000b</li> <li>• Fertig and Jones 1992</li> <li>• WYNDD 2002</li> </ul>
8 Life History and Demographics	D	Myrtle-leaf Willow is a low-growing, dioecious shrub. Flowering and fruiting occur from June through July.  Additional information on the species, including life history stages, population structure, longevity, mortality, and seed biology, are not available.  Confidence in Rank High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dorn 1997</li> <li>• Evert et al. 1986</li> <li>• Fertig 2000b</li> <li>• Fertig and Markow 1998</li> <li>• Porsild and Cody 1980</li> </ul>
Initial Evaluator(s): Joy Handley, Bonnie Heidel and Scott Laursen			Date: May 8, 2002

**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			Cimmaron NG			Samuel R. McKelvie NF			Black Hills NF			Shoshone NF	X	
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														

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