

ATTACHMENT SS2

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REGION 2 SENSITIVE SPECIES EVALUATION FORM

Species: ***Catostomas latinnis*, flannelmouth sucker**

Criteria	Rank	Rationale	Literature Citations
1 Distribution within R2	B	<p>Within Region 2, flannelmouth occur primarily in large rivers of the western slope of Colorado. They are known to occur as far east as the Colorado River near Granby, but are more abundant in the western one-third of the state. Records from 1951 indicate it once occurred in the upper Little Snake River of Wyoming. Some habitats and populations have been fragmented due to dam construction, dewatering, and coldwater releases from reservoirs. The introduction of non-endemic species, especially white and longnose suckers, pose a significant risk to the species. Occurrence and abundance on National Forest lands is likely a function of habitat composition (i.e. deep, high-gradient riffles in large rivers).</p> <p>Confidence in Rank High</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Baxter, George T. and James R. Simon, 1970</li> <li>• Woodling, John, 1985</li> <li>• California Academy of Sciences, 2001</li> <li>• National Museum of Natural History, 2001</li> <li>• Minckley, W.L., 1973</li> </ul>
2 Distribution outside R2	B	<p>Outside of Region 2, flannelmouth occur in the Green River Basin of Wyoming and Utah, the San Juan Basin of New Mexico, and the lower Colorado River system of Arizona. Distribution parallels that of the bluehead sucker and they are often found together.</p> <p>Confidence in Rank High</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Baxter, George T. and James R. Simon, 1970</li> <li>• Woodling, John, 1985</li> <li>• California Academy of Sciences, 2001</li> <li>• National Museum of Natural History, 2001</li> <li>• Minckley, W.L., 1973</li> </ul>
3 Dispersal Capability	B	<p>Movement among populations has not been studied. However, adults of this specie are considered sedentary and movements of any significant distance are probably limited to larval drift downstream and subsequent movement of juveniles upstream. Therefore, it seems unlikely that any of the populations outside of Colorado provide a common source of immigration to Region 2 populations.</p> <p>Confidence in Rank High</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>
4 Abundance in R2	B	<p>Absolute abundance statistics are not commonly available for flannelmouth. Stochastic variability has not been studied. Presence or absence data do exist and some records describe where this species has been extirpated. It is thought that human influences, such as water development, are responsible in cases where extirpation has occurred. To what degree stochastic and environmental factors contributed is unknown. While distribution parallels that of the bluehead sucker, it is not as common as the bluehead. It is classified by the State of Colorado as a Species of Special Concern.</p> <p>Confidence in Rank Medium</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Colorado Division of Wildlife, pers. com. 2001</li> </ul>

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Criteria	Rank	Rationale	Literature Citations
5 Population Trend in R2	B	While it is known that some populations are in decline, state biologists consider populations, as a whole, to be stable.  Confidence in Rank High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Woodling, John, 1985</li> <li>• Colorado Division of Wildlife, pers. com. 2001</li> </ul>
6 Habitat Trend in R2	A	Flannelmouth are considered “big river” fishes and prefer deeper, high-gradient riffles and clean substrates. Dewatering of large rivers is thought to have contributed to their decline through the loss of habitat quantity and quality. Bluehead also prefer warmer temperatures. Hypolimnetic discharge from reservoirs results in lower temperatures and is thought to contribute to habitat fragmentation and decreased abundance.  Confidence in Rank High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Woodling, John, 1985</li> <li>• Colorado Division of Wildlife, pers. com. 2001</li> </ul>
7 Habitat Vulnerability or Modification	B	Additional water development on large streams within Region 2 can be expected. Loss of habitat quantity and quality from such development represents the greatest risk to this species’ habitat.  Confidence in Rank High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>
8 Life History and Demographics	B	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Reproduction - reproductive rates are relatively high under “normal” conditions, but can be strongly influenced by water levels and associated habitat conditions during the spawning cycle.</li> <li>2. Competition - flannelmouth are thought to be highly susceptible to competition from introduced species.</li> <li>3. Predation – known predators include channel catfish (<i>Ictalurus punctatus</i>) and rainbow trout (<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>).</li> </ol> Confidence in Rank Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Woodling, John, 1985</li> <li>• Colorado Division of Wildlife, pers. com. 2001</li> <li>• California Academy of Sciences, 2001</li> <li>• National Museum of Natural History, 2001</li> </ul>
Evaluator(s): David R. Gerhardt, San Juan National Forest, Durango, CO			Date: 6/28/01

**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>		<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
	X	Cimmaron NG		Samuel R. McKelvie NF		Black Hills NF		Shoshone NF	
X				Halsey NF		Buffalo Gap NG		Bighorn NF	
X				Nebraska NF		Ft. Pierre NG		Black Hills NF	
X				Ogalala NG				Medicine Bow NF	X
X								Thunder Basin NG	

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### REFERENCES

- Baxter, George T. and James R. Simon. 1970. Wyoming Fishes. Bulletin No. 4, Wyoming Game and Fish Department, Cheyenne, Wyoming. 109-110, 112-113.
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- Personal Communication. July 7, 2001. Rick Anderson, Research Biologist, Colorado Division of Wildlife, Grand Junction, CO.
- Minckley, W.L. 1973. Fishes of Arizona. Arizona Game and Fish Department, Phoenix, AZ.
- National Museum of Natural History. 2001. Fishbase.org. electronic database.
- Woodling, John. 1985. Colorado's Little Fishes. Colorado Division of Wildlife, Department of Natural Resources, 6060 Broadway, Denver, CO. 58, 60.