

ATTACHMENT SS2

REGION 2 SENSITIVE SPECIES EVALUATION FORM

Species: Iowa Darter (<u>Etheostoma exile</u>)			
Criteria	Rank	Rationale	Literature Citations
1 Distribution within R2	B	In Region 2, the Iowa darter is found in the North Platte and South Platte River basins. Additionally, in Wyoming, the species is found in the Niobrara River drainage. In Nebraska, the Iowa darter is most often found in the Loup, Elkhorn, and Niobrara drainages. In Colorado, the Iowa darter is found throughout the Front Range in streams and ponds. There have been no reports or collections of Iowa darters from Kansas (Cimarron National Grassland) or from South Dakota (Black Hills and vicinity). Confidence in Rank High or Medium or Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baxter and Stone 1995 • Elson 2001 • Lee et al. 1980 • Page and Burr 1991 • Patton 2001 • Schainost and Koneya 2000 • Unkenholz 2001
2 Distribution outside R2	C	Outside of Region 2, the Iowa darter appears to be widely distributed in the Saint Lawrence – Great Lakes, Hudson Bay, and Mississippi River basins. In Canada, the Iowa darter is widely distributed from Quebec to Alberta. Confidence in Rank High or Medium or Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baxter and Stone 1995 • Lee et al. 1980 • Page and Burr 1991
3 Dispersal Capability	A	In Wyoming and Nebraska, dispersal of Iowa darters doesn't appear to be a problem because both states report stable populations and relatively wide population distributions within the historical ranges. In Colorado, dispersal may be a problem because of urban and industrial development along the Front Range. Confidence in Rank High or Medium or Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baxter and Stone 1995 • Schainost and Knoeya 2000
4 Abundance in R2	B	In Region 2, Iowa darter populations are considered to be in "stable" in Nebraska and Wyoming. In Colorado, abundance is relatively low and the species is considered as a "species of concern". Confidence in Rank High or Medium or Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baxter and Stone 1995 • Schainost and Koneya 2000
5 Population Trend in R2	B	Populations of Iowa darters are considered "stable" in Nebraska. In Wyoming, this species was, at one time, considered to be on the decline because of an increase in the abundance of Johnny darters, but this is likely not the case. In Colorado, populations of Iowa darters are likely on a downward trend. Confidence in Rank High or Medium or Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baxter and Stone 1995 • Patton 2001 • Schainost and Koneya 2000

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Criteria	Rank	Rationale	Literature Citations
6 Habitat Trend in R2	A	Iowa darter habitats in Region 2 (Nebraska and Wyoming) appear to be somewhat stable. In Colorado, Iowa darter habitats are considered in decline in the Front Range. Confidence in Rank High or Medium or Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Baxter and Stone 1995 Schainost and Koneya 2000
7 Habitat Vulnerability or Modification	B	In Colorado, Iowa darter habitats appear to be at severe risk of modification along the Front Range because of urban and industrial development. In the rest of Region 2 where the species is extant, Iowa darter habitats are less vulnerable to anthropogenic modifications. Confidence in Rank High or Medium or Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schainost and Koneya 2000
8 Life History and Demographics	C	Given the habitat requirements of the Iowa darter, it appears that the species is able to cope with environmental changes so long as development or natural disturbances do not preclude water availability. Because the Iowa darter is a relatively small species (< 3.0 inches total length), it is likely that the species is susceptible to predation by exotic fish species. Confidence in Rank High or Medium or Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Baxter and Stone 1995 Page and Burr 1991
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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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<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>	
<u>Known</u>	<u>Likely</u>	<u>Known</u>	<u>Likely</u>	<u>Known</u>	<u>Likely</u>	<u>Known</u>	<u>Likely</u>	<u>Known</u>	<u>Likely</u>
Arapaho-Roosevelt NF	X	Cimarron NG		Samuel R. McKelvie NF	X	Black Hills NF		Shoshone NF	
White River NF				Halsey NF	X	Buffalo Gap NG		Bighorn NF	
Routt NF				Nebraska NF	X	Ft. Pierre NG		Black Hills NF	
Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, Gunnison NF				Ogalala NG				Medicine Bow NF	X
San Juan NF								Thunder Basin NG	
Rio Grande NF									
Pike-San Isabel NF									
Comanche NG									

References

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