

REGION 2 SENSITIVE SPECIES EVALUATION FORM

Species: Plains topminnow (*Fundulus sciaticus*)

Criteria	Rank	Rationale	Literature Citations
1 Distribution within R2	B	The plains topminnow occurs in all states of Region 2.  Confidence in Rank <b>High</b> or <b>Medium</b> or <b>Low</b>	•
2 Distribution outside R2	C	Two disjunct areas: Missouri River basin in Nebraska and closely adjacent parts of northeastern Colorado, eastern Wyoming, southern South Dakota, northeastern Iowa, and extreme southwestern Minnesota; also Missouri River drainage in central Missouri and Neosho River system in southwestern Missouri, extreme southeastern Kansas, and northeastern Oklahoma (Page and Burr 1991; Sharron Nelson, pers. comm., 1998). In Nebraska, occurs across most of the state north of the Platte River (Stasiak 1987) and in the Republican River in the southwestern portion of the state (Lee et al. 1980); most common in the Sandhills (Stasiak 1987). In Minnesota, found in the Rock River (Sharron Nelson, pers. comm., 1998). In Colorado, occurs throughout the Platte River Basin and has been accidentally stocked in the White River (Fair 1996). In Missouri, occurs along the northwestern margin of the Ozarks from Shoal Creek northeastward to the lower Osage and Gasconade rivers (Pfleiger 1975). In Kansas, known from a backwater of Shoal Creek, Cherokee County (Bill Busby, pers. comm., 1998). In Oklahoma, known from Delaware and Mayes counties (Caryn Vaughn, pers. comm., 1998).  Confidence in Rank <b>High</b> or <b>Medium</b> or <b>Low</b>	• citations in references section
3 Dispersal Capability	A	Many populations of plains topminnows occur in isolated pools no longer connected to streams and rivers, limiting the dispersal of the species.  Confidence in Rank <b>High</b> or <b>Medium</b> or <b>Low</b>	•
4 Abundance in R2	B	Specific abundance information is not available, and available information is general and somewhat contradictory. According to Page and Burr (1991) often abundant, particularly in Nebraska; common but somewhat localized. In Missouri, considered rather common in preferred habitat by Pfeleger (1975). However, many of the Missouri occurrences consist of one or two individuals (Janet Sternburg, pers. comm., 1998). In Nebraska most common in the Sandhills (Stasiak 1987). Found at 13 stations during a	• <a href="http://www.natureserve.org">www.natureserve.org</a> • citations in references section

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		<p>1989-1995 survey of 32 sites (based on 49 sampling visits) on the North Platte and South Platte rivers in southwestern Nebraska, but nowhere common. However, abundant in many streams entering the North Platte and South Platte rivers (Lynch and Roh 1996).</p> <p>Confidence in Rank <b>High</b> or <b>Medium</b> or <b>Low</b></p>	
<p><b>5</b> Population Trend in R2</p>	<p><b>D</b></p>	<p>Specific rangewide population trend information is not available. In general, it appears that some population losses or range retractions have occurred in Missouri and on the periphery of the northern portion of the range, but the species is believed to be stable across the remainder of the range. Historically (before 1972) appears to have been more abundant than today in the North Platte and South Platte rivers in southwestern Nebraska (Lynch and Roh 1996). Considered stable by the Minnesota, South Dakota, and Nebraska heritage programs. In Missouri, extirpated from the Osage River Basin above Bagnell Dam and less common in the southwestern Ozarks, but currently considered stable. Suitable habitat is believed to be declining in Colorado (Fair 1996). According to recent survey data, possibly declining in Wyoming. There is no current information on the status of historical records from Kansas and Oklahoma. The species is viewed as vulnerable in South Dakota and Wyoming, secure in Colorado and Nebraska, and critically imperiled in Kansas.</p> <p>Confidence in Rank <b>High</b> or <b>Medium</b> or <b>Low</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• citations in references section</li> </ul>
<p><b>6</b> Habitat Trend in R2</p>	<p><b>B</b></p>	<p>Threats are not well known, but may include impoundments, channelization, agricultural runoff, dewatering, siltation, and introductions of <i>GAMBUSIA AFFINIS</i> (Fair 1996; Lynch and Roh 1996). In Missouri, extirpated from the Osage River Basin above Bagnell Dam. Declines in southwestern Nebraska in the North Platte and South Platte rivers are attributed to competition with the introduced <i>GAMBUSIA AFFINIS</i> (Lynch and Roh 1996). The degree of threat varies across the range and has been estimated by heritage programs to be moderate in Minnesota, Colorado, and Wyoming, not very threatened in South Dakota and Nebraska, and moderate to not very threatened in Missouri. Status is unknown in Kansas and Oklahoma.</p> <p>Confidence in Rank <b>High</b> or <b>Medium</b> or <b>Low</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• citations in references section</li> </ul>

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<b>7</b> Habitat Vulnerability or Modification	<b>B</b>	Most streams in the Great Plains have been degraded. Many streams with formerly sandy substrates have been silted in.  Confidence in Rank High or <b>Medium</b> or Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="http://www.natureserve.org">www.natureserve.org</a></li></ul>
<b>8</b> Life History and Demographics	<b>D</b>	  Confidence in Rank High or <b>Medium</b> or Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•</li></ul>
Initial Evaluator(s): John Sidle			Date: 7/10/01

**National Forests in the Rocky Mountain Region where species is KNOWN (K) or LIKELY(L)<sup>1</sup> to occur:**

<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	K		Cimmaron NG		L	Samuel R.McKelvie NF	K		Black Hills NF			Shoshone NF		
White River NF						Halsey NF	K		Buffalo Gap NG			Bighorn NF		
Routt NF						Nebraska NF			Ft. Pierre NG			Black Hills NF		L
Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, Gunnison NF						Ogalala NG						Medicine Bow NF		
San Juan NF												Thunder Basin NG		L
Rio Grande NF														
Pike-San Isabel NF														
Comanche NG		L												

**References**

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<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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