

ATTACHMENT SS2

REGION 2 SENSITIVE SPECIES EVALUATION FORM

| Species: Common hog-nosed skunk (<i>Conepatus leuconotus figginsi</i>) | | | |
|--|------|---|--|
| Criteria | Rank | Rationale | Literature Citations |
| 1 Distribution within R2 | A | <p>Prior to 2000 the species in Colorado was known from less than 10 specimens collected in the 1920s. In 2000, a skull found on the San Carlos ranger district was verified as a Hognose Skunk. This skull was on the boundary of Pueblo and Custer Counties in a brushy area planned for a prescribed burn. Historic records reported <i>Conepatus mesoleucus fremonti</i> from El Paso and Fremont Counties and <i>Conepatus mesoleucus figginsi</i> from Baca County. There are taxonomic questions regarding the subspecific designations in Colorado due to the limited study of geographic variation in the State. Therefore the species <i>Conepatus leuconotus</i> is not easily separated to subspecies by geographic location alone.</p> <p>Confidence in Rank High</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fitzgerald, et al. 1994. Mammals of Colorado. Denver Museum of Natural History and University Press of Colo. Niwot, Colo. 467 pgs. |
| 2 Distribution outside R2 | B | <p>The hognose skunk ranges throughout the southwestern United States and Mexico. Colorado is the extreme north edge of the species range. The population in Colorado and the Oklahoma panhandle may represent a disjunct population by several hundred kilometers from the nearest locality in the Sandia Mountains of New Mexico.</p> <p>Confidence in Rank High</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> |
| 3 Dispersal Capability | B | <p>Disjunct populations and patchy habitats in the State limits dispersal ability.</p> <p>Confidence in Rank Medium</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> |
| 4 Abundance in R2 | A | <p>No specific data on abundance is available, however limited records of occurrence imply relatively low abundance.</p> <p>Confidence in Rank High</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> |
| 5 Population Trend in R2 | D | <p>No information available.</p> <p>Confidence in Rank High</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> |

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| Criteria | Rank | Rationale | Literature Citations |
| 6 Habitat Trend in R2 | A/D | This species uses rocky canyon country, pinyon juniper woodlands, montane shrublands (oakbrush), and grasslands. It occurs in foothills and brushy areas. Urban development in the foothills may be a potential impact. Habitats may be declining due to impacts to shrublands and pinyon juniper woodlands in Colorado. Confidence in Rank Medium | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> http://www.askjeeves.com/main/askJeeves.asp?ori=0&qsrc=4&meta=1&ads=&ask=colorado+hog+nose+skunk&x=17&y=13 |
| 7 Habitat Vulnerability or Modification | A/B | Foothill habitats along the Front Range are vulnerable from urban development, recreation, vegetation management and fire. Canyon and woodland habitats on the grasslands have pressures from livestock grazing, recreation and fire threats. Confidence in Rank Medium | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> |
| 8 Life History and Demographics | D | Little information exists about life history. The skunk's distinctive broad nose pad is an adaptation for rooting up insects. Vegetation, arachnids, reptiles, mollusks, and small mammals are also eaten. They forage using their snout and long front claws for rooting for insects leaving large areas of disturbed litter and topsoil. They are thought to be nocturnal, although there are some reports that they will forage by day in the winter. They use rocky ledges and crevices for denning but will also use caves abandoned mines, burrows and old woodrat nests. Confidence in Rank High | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> |
| Initial Evaluator(s): Nancy Ryke | | | Date: 10/29/2001 |

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> | |
|-----------------------|--------|---------------------|--------|-----------------------|--------|---------------------------|--------|----------------------|--------|
| Known | Likely | Known | Likely | Known | Likely | Known | Likely | Known | Likely |
| | | Cimmaron NG | X | 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 | |
| | | | | | | | | Thunder Basin NG | |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| | X | | | | | | | | |
| | X | | | | | | | | |