

ATTACHMENT SS2

REGION 2 SENSITIVE SPECIES EVALUATION FORM

Species: Rocky Mountain (*Ovis canadensis canadensis*) and Desert Bighorn Sheep (*Ovis canadensis nelsoni*)

(Because threats are consistent throughout range, proposing Sensitive Species status Region Wide)

Criteria	Rank	Rationale	Literature Citations
1 Distribution within R2	A for some pops.; B for others	In Region 2, RM Bighorn Sheep are found, to some extent, on all Forests. Some Forests have but one herd while others have up to 13. Only the GMUG National Forest has populations of Desert Bighorns. Confidence in Rank High	Information from Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep (<i>Ovis Canadensis</i>): A Technical Conservation Assessment 2007
2 Distribution outside R2	C	All of the Rocky Mountain States have bighorn sheep populations and the Southwest U.S. States have the Desert Bighorn Sheep. Throughout its range, the distribution of bighorns is naturally fragmented due to the patchy nature of their preferred habitat. Bighorns once numbered 500,000 animals prior to 1800 to approximately 15,000 to 20,000 in 1960. Confidence in Rank High	Information from Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep (<i>Ovis Canadensis</i>): A Technical Conservation <u>Assessment</u> 2007
3 Dispersal Capability	B	Dispersal rates are considered to be low. Immigration and emigration are relatively insignificant in most bighorn populations because of high range fidelity. Confidence in rank high.	• Information from Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep (<i>Ovis canadensis</i>): A Technical Conservation Assessment 2007
4 Abundance in R2	B	Approximately fourteen thousand individuals can be found in Region 2 (SCA). Populations are now stable to declining. A number of wild sheep herds in R-2 are small, stagnant and susceptible to extirpation.	• Information from Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep (<i>Ovis canadensis</i>): A Technical Conservation Assessment 2007

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Criteria	Rank	Rationale	Literature Citations
5 Population Trend in R2	D	Unknown in some herds. Stable in others and declining in some. Bighorn sheep are vulnerable to transmission of disease from domestic sheep. Stable to declining in most herds. Confidence in rank - high	Information from Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep (<i>Ovis canadensis</i>): A Technical Conservation Assessment 2007
6 Habitat Trend in R2	A	Habitat trend in Colorado is downward for many herds because of development on winter ranges or the potential exposure to domestic sheep. Confidence in Rank High	Information from Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep (<i>Ovis canadensis</i>): A Technical Conservation Assessment 2007
7 Habitat Vulnerability or Modification	A	Habitat very vulnerable due to human disturbance (motorized travel, antler and horn collectors, dogs killing sheep etc.) development or introduction of domestic sheep which can cause the transmission of diseases to the wild sheep. Confidence in Rank High	Information from Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep (<i>Ovis canadensis</i>): A Technical Conservation Assessment 2007
8 Life History and Demographics	A for some Populations: B for others	Relatively low reproductive rate and high mortality due to disease. Confidence in Rank High	Information from Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep (<i>Ovis canadensis</i>): A Technical Conservation Assessment 2007
Evaluator(s): Tom Holland – Forest Wildlife Biologist Grand Mesa, Uncompaghre and Gunnison National Forest			Date: 2/15/07

Notes:

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National Forests in the Rocky Mountain Region where species is KNOWN (K) or LIKELY (L)¹ to occur: Species Name: Rocky Mountain and Desert Bighorn Sheep

<u>Colorado NF/NG</u>	<u>Known</u>	<u>Likely</u>	<u>K</u> <u>a</u> <u>n</u> <u>s</u> <u>a</u> <u>s</u> <u>L</u> <u>i</u> <u>k</u> <u>e</u> <u>l</u> <u>y</u> <u>L</u> <u>i</u> <u>k</u> <u>e</u> <u>l</u> <u>y</u>	<u>Known</u>	<u>Likely</u>	<u>Nebraska NF/NG</u>	<u>Known</u>	<u>Likely</u>	<u>South Dakota NF/NG</u>	<u>Known</u>	<u>Likely</u>	<u>Wyoming NF/NG</u>	<u>Known</u>	<u>Likely</u>
Arapaho-Roosevelt NF	X					Nebraska	X		Black Hills	X		Shoshone NF	X	
White River NF	X											Bighorn NF	X	
Routt NF	X													
Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, Gunnison NF	X This Forest also has Desert Bighorns											Medicine Bow NF	X	
San Juan NF	X											Thunder Basin NG		
Rio Grande NF	X													
Pike-San Isabel NF	X													
Comanche NG	X													
Pawnee NG														

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.

References

Information from Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep (*Ovis canadensis*): A Technical Conservation Assessment