

ATTACHMENT SS2

REGION 2 SENSITIVE SPECIES EVALUATION FORM

Species: <b>Cliff chipmunk (<i>Tamias dorsalis utahensis</i>)</b>			
Criteria	Rank	Rationale	Literature Citations
<b>1</b> Distribution within R2	<b>A</b>	<p>Within the Region 2 area the cliff chipmunk is only found in two different locations, neither of which is on any USFS designated forests or grasslands. In Wyoming the chipmunk can only be found in a very small area near the Flaming Gorge at Sage Creek. In Colorado the chipmunk can only be found in the northwestern corner of the state, in Moffat county, and perhaps on the western edge of the Routt National Forest. This chipmunk prefers rocky areas in conifer woodlands and sagebrush shrublands.</p> <p>Confidence in Rank <b>High</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1,2,3,4,5,6</li> </ul>
<b>2</b> Distribution outside R2	<b>B</b>	<p>The distribution of this species outside of the Region 2 area is also very limited and its overall range is small. This chipmunk ranges from the eastern half of Nevada, south and east into the middle of Arizona and some of western New Mexico, and further south into Mexico. It also ranges east from Nevada into some areas of western Utah.</p> <p>Confidence in Rank <b>High</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1,2,4,6</li> </ul>
<b>3</b> Dispersal Capability	<b>A</b>	<p>Little is known on dispersal of this species, but given the combination of its limited range and mobility, I would give this criterion an A ranking indicating it has very limited dispersal capabilities. This criterion may warrant a B ranking.</p> <p>Confidence in Rank <b>Low</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>
<b>4</b> Abundance in R2	<b>B</b>	<p>Little data exists on abundance of this species within Region 2, but given its extremely small distribution in the region, it would be logical that the abundance is low. Clark and Stromberg state these small mammals are rare in Wyoming, although they seem to be abundant elsewhere within their range. However, they are considered fairly common in Moffat county, Colorado according to the Colorado Species Abundance Website.</p> <p>Confidence in Rank <b>Low</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1,5</li> </ul>
<b>5</b> Population Trend in R2	<b>A</b>	<p>Little data is available in regards to population trends within the Region 2 area, but some of the data indicates a decreasing trend in some areas. Clark and Stromberg indicated that this chipmunk was formerly abundant along the Green River, north of Utah, but that the species is now restricted to an extremely small area of rock outcrops along Sage Creek, in the Flaming Gorge.</p> <p>Confidence in Rank <b>Low</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1</li> </ul>

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Criteria	Rank	Rationale	Literature Citations
<b>6</b> Habitat Trend in R2	<b>A</b>	Habitat trends in Region 2 are not well known, but Clark and Stromberg indicate that habitat destruction by humans occurred recently in southwestern Wyoming. Habitat trends in Colorado are not well known. This criterion may warrant a B ranking.  Confidence in Rank <b>Low</b>	• 1
<b>7</b> Habitat Vulnerability or Modification	<b>B</b>	Habitat in the Flaming Gorge area in Wyoming is protected, but it is likely that some of the habitat in Colorado may be threatened by human development or disturbance.  Confidence in Rank <b>Low</b>	• 2
<b>8</b> Life History and Demographics	<b>B</b>	The cliff chipmunk has one litter of 4 to 6 young per year. Gestation lasts 28-31 days. At 30 days of age the young leave the nest and they can live 1 to 2 years in the wild. Natural predators of the chipmunk include various hawks, badgers, snakes, and long-tailed weasels. Mortality statistics are not well known, but due to low dispersal ability and limited distribution, this species would be vulnerable to disturbances.  Confidence in Rank <b>Medium</b>	• 1,2,4,6
Initial Evaluator(s): Darby Dark-Smiley, Research Scientist, Wyoming Natural Diversity Database			Date: 09/13/2001

**Literature Citations:**

- 1) Clark, T.W. and M.R. Stromberg. 1987. Mammals in Wyoming. University Press of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas.
- 2) Wyoming Natural Diversity Database. 2001. Unpublished data. University of Wyoming, Laramie, Wyoming.
- 3) Colorado Gap Analysis Program. 2001. Species distribution models: <http://ndis.nrel.colostate.edu/cogap/cogaphome.html>.
- 4) Whitaker, Jr., J.O. 1980. National Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Mammals. Alfred A. Knopf Publishing, New York, NY.
- 5) Colorado Species Occurrence and Abundance Tool. 2001. Species abundances by county: <http://ndis.nrel.colostate.edu/ndis/countyab/>
- 6) Lechleitner, R.R. 1969. Wild Mammals of Colorado. Pruett Publishing Company, Boulder, Colorado.

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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>	<u>Known</u>	<u>Likely</u>	<u>Kansas NF/NG</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	-	-	Cimmaron NG	-	-	Samuel R. McKelvie NF	-	-	Black Hills NF	-	-	Shoshone NF	-	-
White River NF	-	-				Halsey NF	-	-	Buffalo Gap NG	-	-	Bighorn NF	-	-
Routt NF	-	1,2				Nebraska NF	-	-	Ft. Pierre NG	-	-	Black Hills NF	-	-
Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, Gunnison NF	-	-				Ogalala NG	-	-				Medicine Bow NF	-	-
San Juan NF	-	-										Thunder Basin NG	-	-
Rio Grande NF	-	-												
Pike-San Isabel NF	-	-												
Comanche NG	-	-												
Pawnee NG	-	-												

Primary Sources:

- 1 CO Gap, 2001 – predicted distribution map.
- 2 CO Species Occurrence & Abundance Tool: <http://ndis.nrel.colostate.edu/ndis/countyab/>

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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.