

ATTACHMENT SS2

REGION 2 SENSITIVE SPECIES EVALUATION FORM

Note: The eastern spotted skunk/plains spotted skunk, (*Spilogale putorius*), and the western spotted skunk, (*Spilogale gracilis*), are closely related and have alternately been considered the same, and separate species by different mammalogists. Often the two species are only distinguished by range. The two species do not occur together over much of their range except in WY and OK. They apparently do not interbreed in these states where they are known to overlap, but their relationship elsewhere is unknown. If indeed they are capable of interbreeding, the two would likely be treated as separate subspecies of the same species (Whitaker Jr., J.O. 1980).

Species: **Plains spotted skunk (*Spilogale putorius interrupta*)**

Criteria	Rank	Rationale	Literature Citations
1 Distribution within R2	C	Much of Region 2 makes up the western periphery of this skunks range. <i>S. putorius interrupta</i> can be found in all five states within the region. In Wyoming and Colorado this skunk occurs in the eastern portions of both states. In South Dakota, Nebraska, and Kansas this skunk ranges across most of the entire area of the state. It can be found in a variety of habitats including mixed woodlands, farmlands, open areas, riparian areas and scrub. Confidence in Rank Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8
2 Distribution outside R2	C	A greater majority of this skunks range occurs outside of the Region 2 area and is fairly contiguous. <i>S. putorius interrupta</i> ranges from the Canadian border in Minnesota south to the Mexican border, primarily east of the Rocky Mountains to the Mississippi River. East of the Mississippi River it can be found in Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Mississippi, and Florida. Confidence in Rank Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1,3,4,7,9
3 Dispersal Capability	B	This criterion is difficult to assess. This species is often associated with river valleys and riparian areas, but can also be found in other various habitats as well. It likely disperses to some degree through these riparian areas, but it is not obligated to live in any specific habitat. This criterion may warrant a C ranking. Confidence in Rank Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1,7,9
4 Abundance in R2	B	Abundance data is somewhat lacking, but it seems that this species is “uncommon” within the Region 2 area. The WYNDD Database states that this species is considered uncommon in Wyoming, and the Colorado Species Abundance Website shows that this species is rare or uncommon in much of it’s range in Colorado. Bee et al., also claims that this species is uncommon in most of Kansas. Confidence in Rank Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2,4,8

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Species: Plains spotted skunk (<i>Spilogale putorius interrupta</i>)			
Criteria	Rank	Rationale	Literature Citations
5 Population Trend in R2	A	Population trends are not well known within R2. The WYNDD Database states that population trends in Wyoming are unknown. There may be a suspected downward trend in some areas. Bee et al., indicates that the population in Kansas has declined recently, especially in the western half of the state. This criterion may warrant a B ranking. Confidence in Rank Low	• 1,4
6 Habitat Trend in R2	A	Habitat trends are largely unknown for R2, but it is likely that some habitat is being lost in areas where urban development is increasing. There has been an obvious decline of habitat in western Kansas due to changing agricultural practices. This may warrant a B ranking. Confidence in Rank Low	• 4
7 Habitat Vulnerability or Modification	B	Habitat is somewhat vulnerable, especially to human development and agricultural practices. Confidence in Rank Medium	• 4,9
8 Life History and Demographics	B	Breeding occurs in March and implantation can be delayed for up to 14 days. Gestation lasts 50-65 days, and females produce one litter of 2-6 young per year. At 14-16 weeks of age the young disperse, and they reach sexual maturity at 5 months of age. Predicted life expectancy is only 1-2 years in the wild. This skunks primary predator is the Great Horned Owl, but coyotes, barred owls, and domestic dogs are also known threats. Significant mortalities are a result of humans, their pets, and cars on roadways. This species is likely to have some difficulty responding to disturbances that may occur. Confidence in Rank Medium	• 1,4,6,7,9
Initial Evaluator(s): Darby Dark-Smiley, Research Scientist, WYNDD			Date: 09/17/2001

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) Turner, R.W. 1974. Mammals of the Black Hills of South Dakota and Wyoming. University of Kansas Museum of Natural History Miscellaneous Publication 60.

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- 4) Bee, J.W., G.E. Glass, R.S. Hoffmann, and R.R. Patterson. 1981. Mammals in Kansas. University of Kansas Publications Museum of Natural History, Lawrence, Kansas.
- 5) Colorado Gap Analysis Program. 2001. Species distribution models: <http://ndis.nrel.colostate.edu/cogap/cogaphome.html>.
- 6) Lechleitner, R.R. 1969. Wild Mammals of Colorado. Pruett Publishing Company, Boulder, Colorado.
- 7) Whitaker Jr., J.O. 1980. National Audebon Society Field Guide to North America Mammals. Alfred A. Knopf Publishing, New York, NY.
- 8) Colorado Species Occurrence and Abundance Tool. 2001. Species abundances by county: <http://ndis.nrel.colostate.edu/ndis/countyab/>
- 9) Jones Jr., J.K., D.M. Armstrong, and J.R. Choate. 1985. Guide to Mammals of the Plains States. University of Nebraska Press, Lincoln, Nebraska.

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

<u>Colorado 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	-	-		-	-	Samuel R. McKelvie NF	3	-	Black Hills NF	-	6	Shoshone NF	-	-
White River NF	-	-				Halsey NF	3	-	Buffalo Gap NG	4	-	Bighorn NF	-	-
Routt NF	-	-				Nebraska NF	3	-	Ft. Pierre NG	4	-	Black Hills NF	-	5
Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, Gunnison NF	-	-				Ogalala NG	3	-				Medicine Bow NF	-	5
San Juan NF	-	-										Thunder Basin NG	5	-
Rio Grande NF	-	-												
Pike-San Isabel NF	-	-												
Comanche NG	1,2	-												
Pawnee NG	1,2	-												

Primary Sources:

1. CO GAP, 2001 – predicted distribution map.
2. Colorado Species Occurrence & Abundance Tool: <http://ndis.nrel.colostate.edu/ndis/countyab/>
3. Jones Jr., J.K., D.M. Armstrong, and J.R. Choate. 1985 – general distribution map for the plains states.
4. SD GAP, 2001 – known/predicted distribution map.
5. Clark & Stromberg. 1987 – known distribution map in Wyoming.
6. Turner, R.W. 1974 – confirmed locations in the Black Hills.

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.