

ATTACHMENT SS2

REGION 2 SENSITIVE SPECIES EVALUATION FORM

Species: (<i>Scalopus aquaticus</i> /Eastern mole)			
Criteria	Rank	Rationale	Literature Citations
1 Distribution within R2	C	Ranked as imperiled in WY & CO; Secure in NE & KS and Apparently secure in SD. <i>Scalopus aquaticus</i> reaches its western distributional limit in CO & WY. Species limited to well developed, well drained soils of flood plains & sandhills in northeastern & extreme southeastern CO. Although seemingly suitable habitat exists along much of South Platte River & other drainages on the plains, the species doesn't appear to be expanding its range. Confidence in Rank High or Medium or Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mammals of CO • CNHP Database • NatureServe
2 Distribution outside R2	C	Species occurs throughout much of eastern US from MA, southern NY, extreme southwestern Ontario, Canada, southern MN & NE, south northern Mexico, eastern TX and FL. Confidence in Rank High or Medium or Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NatureServe • Mammals of CO • Mammals of TX
3 Dispersal Capability	B	Forage widely, soil type and moisture are major barriers to dispersal. Home ranges often overlap, good swimmers and are not limited by water itself but by the moist clay-filled soils that accompany water courses. Soil acidity, which determines food abundance, provides another potential barrier. Confidence in Rank High or Medium or Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • University of Michigan-Narrative (on-line) • NatureServe
4 Abundance in R2	C	Abundance in Nebraska, Kansas and South Dakota is secure, while Colorado and Wyoming are imperiled. Species reaches its western distributional limit in CO & WY. Confidence in Rank High or Medium or Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mammals of CO • CNHP Database • NatureServe
5 Population Trend in R2	D	Have few natural enemies other than humans. Floods may be most important natural control on populations. Confidence in Rank High or Medium or Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CNHP Database • NatureServe • NDIS Database • Mammals of TX
6 Habitat Trend in R2	B	Prefers fields, meadows, pastures and open woodland. Not found in stony or gravelly soils. Habitat seems to be stable and perhaps even increasing due to new golf courses being built. Confidence in Rank High or Medium or Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NDIS Database • Mammals of CO • Mammals of TX

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7 Habitat Vulnerability or Modification	C	Species uses two types of underground burrows: shallow surface run, associated with foraging activities, and deep burrow for protection and rearing of young. Although moles may create unsightly mounds on lawns, their activities mostly are beneficial because they eat larvae and aerate the soil. Confidence in Rank High or Medium or Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mammals of TX • Mammals of CO • NDIS Database
8 Life History and Demographics	C	Species cannot see and spend almost all of their time underground and may live over 3 years in wild. Little is known about reproduction, species is reported to have only one litter per year with two to five young. Young become independent of mother in about one month. Home range of males ave. 1.9 ha, and females ave. .28 ha. Size of the home ranges of males exceeds that reported for a number of fossorial rodents. Confidence in Rank High or Medium or Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NDIS Database • Mammals of TX • Mammals of CO
Initial Evaluator(s): Janet S. Moser			Date: 7/25/01

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

References – Eastern Mole (*Scalopus aquaticus*)

CNHP Database. 2001. Unpublished distribution information for *Scalopus aquaticus* in Colorado from the Biological and Conservation Data System of the Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado.

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Mammals of Texas – Online edition. 1994. Texas Parks and Wildlife, Nongame and Urban Program. Texas Cooperative Research Unit, Texas Tech University.

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NatureServe: An online encyclopedia of life [web application]. 2001. Version 1.4. Arlington, Virginia, USA: Association for Biodiversity Information.