

ATTACHMENT SS2

REGION 2 SENSITIVE SPECIES EVALUATION FORM

Species:Northern flying squirrel ( <i>Glaucomys sabrinus</i> )			
Criteria	Rank	Rationale	Literature Citations
1 Distribution within R2	B	The distribution of northern flying squirrel in Region 2 is uncertain. The species is known to occur in the western forests of Wyoming and in the Black Hills. Some information suggests occurrence on the Medicine-bow NF, however, presence of a breeding population is unlikely. Similarly, flying squirrels have been reported to occur in Moffat County Colorado west of the Green River. However, the presence of a population in this area is uncertain. In any case, the squirrel has a limited distribution in the Region and the Region occurs at the southern edge of the species range in the Rockies. Within the geographic range of the species in Region 2, the squirrel occupies a patchy distribution in conifer habitats of the lower supalpine zone and upper montane. Because the squirrel does not travel easily on the ground, dispersal is somewhat limited compared to other squirrels.  Confidence in Rank <del>High or Medium or Low</del>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Luce et al. 1999</li> <li>Armstrong 1972:312</li> <li>Wells-Gosling and Heaney 1984</li> </ul>
2 Distribution outside R2	B	Northern flying squirrels occupy a very broad distribution outside the Region. Distribution extends across northern North America in Canada and southward from the boreal forests in the Appalachians, Rockies, and west coast ranges. Region 2 represents the southern extent of the species range in the Rockies. Therefore, movements into Region 2 are restricted.  Confidence in Rank <del>High or Medium or Low</del>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wells-Gosling and Heaney 1984</li> <li>Groves et al 1997</li> <li>Luce et al. 1999</li> <li>Armstrong 1972:312</li> <li>Carey 1995</li> </ul>
3 Dispersal Capability	B	Little has been written regarding dispersal in northern flying squirrels. The broad distribution of the squirrel demonstrates successful dispersal, however, the squirrel is less mobile on the ground than other tree squirrels.  Confidence in Rank <del>High or Medium or Low</del>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wells-Gosling and Heaney 1984</li> </ul>
4 Abundance in R2	D-B	There is no direct information regarding the abundance of northern flying squirrel in Region 2. Based on the author's own fieldwork near the Gray's river I would suggest that the squirrel is abundant in appropriate habitat.  Confidence in Rank <del>High or Medium or Low</del>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Luce et al. 1999</li> </ul>

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5 Population Trend in R2	D-B	There is no direct evidence regarding trends in abundance of northern flying squirrel in Region 2. The author has no reason to believe that a significant downward trend is occurring. The squirrel in the Rockies occurs in several conifer forest types and does not appear to depend on oldgrowth forest.  Confidence in Rank <del>High</del> or Medium or Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wells-Gosling and Heaney 1984</li> <li>Luce et al. 1999.</li> </ul>
6 Habitat Trend in R2	B	There is no direct evidence regarding trends in habitat for the northern flying squirrel in Region 2. The author has no reason to believe that a significant downward trend in habitat is occurring at this time. Habitat may have declined during portions of the 1900's when timber harvest was heavy in the range of this species. However, harvest rates are not high at this time. The species appears to use a variety of habitats in the Rockies.  Confidence in Rank <del>High</del> or Medium or Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hayward and Rosentretter 1994 and associated studies.</li> </ul>
7 Habitat Vulnerability or Modification	B	Northern flying squirrels are arboreal and occur in forest habitat with abundant fungi and lichen. They do not appear to require old forest conditions in the Rocky Mountains, however, and occur in a range of seral stages. Conditions which reduce the abundance of fungi and lichen will reduce habitat quality for the species. As a relatively large secondary cavity nester, the squirrel relies on particular forest processes and activities of primary cavity excavators for breeding and roosting sites.  Confidence in Rank <del>High</del> or Medium or Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wells-Gosling and Heaney 1984</li> <li>Hayward and Rosentretter 1994 and associated studies</li> <li>Maser and Maser. 1988</li> <li>Maser et al. 1986</li> <li>Maser et al. 1978</li> <li>Maser et al. 1985</li> </ul>
8 Life History and Demographics	C	In general the life history of the northern flying squirrel does not make it particularly vulnerable. As a forest obligate with a relatively narrow diet, the squirrel has particular vulnerabilities discussed in earlier sections (e.g. dispersal, use of cavities). Heavy reliance on fungi and lichen for food also lead to some vulnerability.  Confidence in Rank <del>High</del> or Medium or Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wells-Gosling and Heaney 1984</li> <li>Hayward and Rosentretter 1994 and associated studies</li> <li>Maser and Maser. 1988</li> <li>Maser et al. 1986</li> <li>Maser et al. 1978</li> <li>Maser et al. 1985</li> </ul>
Evaluator(s):			Date:

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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>	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			Samuel R. McKelvie NF			Black Hills NF	K		Shoshone NF	K	
White River NF						Halsey NF			Buffalo Gap NG			Bighorn NF		
Routt NF						Nebraska NF			Ft. Pierre NG			Black Hills NF	K	
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														

Literature Cited:

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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.