

Region 2 Sensitive Species List

Gunnison's Prairie Dog (*Cynomys gunnisoni*) [Note: Add to Index Page, under sensitive species. Also, create web page for this species and link to Index. We don't have evaluation at this time, so the 8 evaluation criteria will be blank for now. Just fill in the the recommendation status (i.e., Sensitive Species) and add the following rationale]

Recommendation Rationale: **R2 Sensitive Species**

Significant declines in both distribution and abundance range-wide and within R2. Equally important is the extensive fragmentation of complexes that reduce or eliminate ecological functions. In many places, colonization is now patchy with limited ability for recolonization across physical and ecological barriers. Sylvatic plague is a serious threat and has contributed to the numerical decline and complex fragmentation. However, this now pervasive threat only increases the importance of the maintenance of existing occupied habitat and the reestablishment of the species on formerly occupied ranges. This species historically occurred somewhat more widely and at higher elevations on Forest Service administered lands than exists currently, and has been and continues to be susceptible to management actions. While the species remains fairly widespread, though discontinuously, its viability on FS administered lands has been brought into question. Because of significant declines, reduction in range, disjunct populations, poor ability to colonize in addition to management potential t negatively affect, and loss of ecological system integrity, we determine this species is warranted for Regional sensitive species status.

Revised on January 13, 2003 by Gary Patton