

## Region 2 Other Emphasis Species List

### **Abert Squirrel (*Sciurus aberti*)**

#### Recommendation Rationale:

Abert squirrel is widespread through the Ponderosa Pine zone of Colorado in R2. Indications are that the species likely remains reasonably secure. Nonetheless, logging, fire suppression, and development have adversely affected and continue to adversely affect habitat quantity and quality, leading to at least localized population declines. There has been a significant amount of development on adjacent private lands in ponderosa pine forest communities. While Abert squirrel may not currently rise to the level of sensitive species status, it is likely a good indicator of changes to the natural condition of the Ponderosa Pine ecosystem. Therefore, we recommend this squirrel be considered for MIS status by all Forests with the ponderosa pine ecosystem type; and as a species of management concern on those units where alteration of the ponderosa pine forest type has caused or is causing a significant decline in this species or suitable habitat.

Revised on January 29, 2003 by Gary Patton