

ATTACHMENT SS2

REGION 2 SENSITIVE SPECIES EVALUATION FORM

Species: <i>Acroloxus coloradensis</i> (Henderson, 1930): Rocky Mountain Capshell (Scientific Name/Common Name/National Code for Plants – USDA PLANTS)			
Criteria	Rank	Rationale	Literature Citations
1 Distribution within R2	A	Nationally, this species is only known to occur in one locality each in Colorado (Walker, 1925; Henderson, 1930; 1936; Bryce, 1970; Wu, 1989) and Montana (Paul and Clifford, 1991). It was thought to have been extirpated after 50 years of absence when, in 1970, a population was discovered in Boulder County (Bryce, 1970; Wu, 1989). Currently, only one population exists in Peterson Lake in Boulder County. A populaton from nearby Eldora Lake (Henderson, 1930) is actually from Peterson Lake, the locality misidentified by Henderson. The lake has experienced extreme population declines and the species is nearly extirpated from the state. Bryce (1970) collected up to 72/m <sup>2</sup> while Wu (1989) collected only two individuals on 15 September 1973 and only one on 4 August 1989.  Confidence in Rank High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bryce, 1970</li> <li>• Henderson, 1930; 1936</li> <li>• Paul and Clifford, 1991</li> <li>• Walker, 1925</li> <li>• Wu, 1989</li> </ul>
2 Distribution outside R2	A	This species is the only representative of the family Acroloxidae in North America and has been recorded from Rocky Mountain lakes (Burch and Tottenham, 1980) in only seven localities outside Colorado (Wu, 1989). It has been found in Lost Lake, Glacier National Park, Montana; Lake Iris and unnamed lake north of Geikie Station, Beaver River in Jasper National Park, Alberta, Canada (Paul and Clifford, 1991); and four lakes in eastern Canada (Lac Gabrielle, Lac Cache, Lac Dore, Quebec; and a pond six miles south of Matheson, Ontario). T. Frest (personal communication, 2000)( believes the Ontario and Quebec populations may be <u>Acroloxus nucularis</u> .  Confidence in Rank High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Burch and Tottenham, 1980</li> <li>• Paul and Clifford, 1991</li> <li>• Wu, 1989</li> </ul>
3 Dispersal Capability	A	Very few, extremely small populations coupled with confined lentic habitat make dispersal of this species unlikely.  Confidence in Rank High	
4 Abundance in R2	A	Recent surveys by Wu and others (Wu, 1989) in 1973 and 1989 revealed only two and one individuals, respectively, compared to up to 72 individuals/m <sup>2</sup> in 1970 (Bryce, 1970).  Confidence in Rank High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bryce, 1970</li> <li>• Wu, 1989</li> </ul>

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5 Population Trend in R2	A	A significant downward trend (see #4 above) indicates a rapidly declining population.  Confidence in Rank High	•
6 Habitat Trend in R2	A	Wu (1989) indicated the remaining habitats are highly polluted. Habitat seems available in the Colorado Front Range, but such a small population may have difficulty colonizing it. Present habitat is threatened by pollution and may no longer be suitable (see #7 below).  Confidence in Rank High	• Wu, 1989
7 Habitat Vulnerability or Modification	A	The remaining lentic habitats are in an area of rapid urbanization and population growth (Boulder County). Specific habitat of Peterson Lake is not on protected land. Winter snowmaking by the nearby Eldora Ski Resort results in water level drawdowns of Peterson Lake. Salting of the roads has become more frequent to accommodate winter skiers and snowboarders (personal observation). Wu (1989) indicated the remaining habitats are highly polluted.  Confidence in Rank High	• Wu, 1989
8 Life History and Demographics	D	Lack of sufficient data.  Confidence in Rank LOW	•
Evaluator(s): James R. Cordeiro			Date: 8/10/2001

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

<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.

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<u>Colorado NF/NG</u>		<u>Kansas NF/NG</u>		<u>Nebraska NF/NG</u>		<u>South Dakota NF/NG</u>		<u>Wyoming NF/NG</u>	
Known	Likely	Known	Likely	Known	Likely	Known	Likely	Known	Likely
x									
Arapaho-Roosevelt NF		Cimmaron NG		Samuel R. McKelvie NF		Black Hills NF		Shoshone NF	
White River NF				Halsey NF		Buffalo Gap NG		Bighorn NF	
Routt NF				Nebraska NF		Ft. Pierre NG		Black Hills NF	
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									