ATTACHMENT SS2

REGION 2 SENSITIVE SPECIES EVALUATION FORM

Species: Utterbackia imbecillis (Say, 1829) Paper Pondshell
(Scientific Name/Common Name/National Code for Plants – USDA PLANTS)

Criteria	Rank	Rationale	Literature Citations
1 Distribution within R2	B	This species is distributed in Nebraska along the Platte River and its tributaries; Johnson Lake, Gosper/Dawson Counties; Midway Lake, Dawson County; Lake Maloney, Lincoln County; and other lakes along the Platte River (Roedel, 1990; Freeman and Perkins, 1992). Lack of adequate surveys in lake environments preclude listing it in other parts of the state but it is likely that the species occurs in other areas with potential lentic habitat. The fact that it does not occur in Wyoming (Beetle, 1989) would indicate it is not likely to be present in northwestern Nebraska. In Kansas it is found in central to eastern Kansas (Couch, 1997; Bleam et al., 1999; Scammon, 1906) distributed widely including tributaries of the lower Marais des Cygnes River drainage (Murray and Leonard, 1962) and Walnut River drainage (Langley, 2000); and in southeastern Kansas as dead shells only (Obermeyer et al., 1995). It is not likely to occur in the drier regions of western and southwestern Kansas. Confidence in Rank High	• Beetle, 1989 • Bleam et al., 1999 • Couch, 1997 • Freeman and Perkins, 1992 • Langley, 2000 • Murray and Leonard, 1962 • Obermeyer et al., 1995 • Roedel, 1990 • Scammon, 1906
2 Distribution outside R2	C	Distribution for this species is generally the Mississippi River drainage in the Rio Grande River system in Texas east to the Ochlockonee River system of Florida; the Altamaha River system of Georgia north to the Chowan River system; the Gunpowder River system of Maryland north to the Middle St. Lawrence River system (Burch, 1975). Confidence in Rank High	• Burch, 1975
3 Dispersal Capability	C	Dispersal capability for this species is higher than for most unionids due to its wide distribution that appears to cross drainage boundaries for reasons unknown. It also benefits from a large number of host fish species (Couch, 1997; Strayer and Jirka, 1997) for the parasitic larval stage. This species may also develop without a host. Confidence in Rank High	• Couch, 1997 • Strayer and Jirka, 1997

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4 Abundance in R2	B	Although this species is widespread where it occurs, it is never common at any one locale (Couch, 1997; Bleam et al., 1999). Confidence in Rank High	• Bleam et al., 1999 • Couch, 1997
5 Population Trend in R2	A	Downward population trends are evidenced by a much wider range in Kansas across much of the state (Scammon, 1906) compared to current range (Couch, 1997; Bleam et al., 1999) as well as the presence of only dead shells in southeastern Kansas (Obermeyer et al., 1995). Confidence in Rank High	• Bleam et al., 1999 • Couch, 1997 • Obermeyer et al., 1995 • Scammon, 1906
6 Habitat Trend in R2	A	Again, see #5 above. Confidence in Rank High	•
7 Habitat Vulnerability or Modification	B	This species is found in ponds, lakes (including artificial reservoirs), and sluggish muddy pools in creeks or rivers (Cummings and Mayer, 1992). It can also be found in the slower, quieter portions of rivers (Oesch, 1995). Such habitat is not threatened and has become the preferred habitat for other mussel species in Colorado at the expense of their former lotic habitats (Cordeiro, 1999). This species is also tolerant of poorer water quality (personal observation). Vulnerability of such habitat seems low considering lakes and ponds, especially artificial reservoirs of recent origin, seem to be the habitat of choice for mussels in nearby Colorado (Cordeiro, 1999) and this species does well in such habitats. The fragile shell, however, makes specimens subject to death by desiccation during drier seasons (Murray and Leonard, 1962). Confidence in Rank High	• Cordeiro, 1999 • Cummings and Mayer, 1992 • Murray and Leonard, 1962 • Oesch, 1995
8 Life History and Demographics	B	Low reproductive rate as evidence by paucity of specimens at individual sites in contrast to wide range of host fish species as well as direct development rate this species as having moderate life history demographics. Confidence in Rank High	•

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Evaluator(s): James R. Cordeiro			Date: 8/10/2001

National Forests in the Rocky Mountain Region where species is KNOWN (K) or LIKELY (L)[1] to occur:

Colorado NF/NG	**Known**	**Likely**	**Kansas NF/NG**	**Known**	**Likely**	**Nebraska NF/NG**	**Known**	**Likely**	**South Dakota NF/NG**	**Known**	**Likely**	**Wyoming NF/NG**	**Known**	**Likely**
Arapaho-Roosevelt NF			Cimmaron NG			Samuel R.McKelvie NF			Black Hills NF			Shoshone NF		
White River NF						Halsey NF		X	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														

[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.