

ATTACHMENT SS2

REGION 2 SENSITIVE SPECIES EVALUATION FORM

Species: *Eriophorum chamissonis* / Russet Cotton-grass

Criteria	Rank	Rationale	Literature Citations
1 Distribution within R2	A	In Wyoming, Russet Cotton-grass occurs in the Absaroka and Bighorn ranges in Park and Sheridan counties on the Bighorn and Shoshone national forests. It is not recognized from any other Region 2 state, but recent floristic survey in central Colorado suggests that material with solitary heads treated as <i>E. altaicum</i> var. <i>neogaeum</i> includes both <i>E. chamissonis</i> and <i>E. scheuchzeri</i> . A technical note clarifying status of this group is planned (Emily Holt, personal communication). Russet Cotton-grass is found in montane swamps and bogs at 7350-8320 feet. Wyoming is at the southern edge of its range, and its distribution in the state is limited. Confidence in Rank High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dorn 2001 • Fertig 1998, 1999 • Porter 1965 • University of Wyoming 1998 • Welp and Fertig 2000
2 Distribution outside R2	C	Russet Cotton-grass is known from eastern Siberia to Newfoundland, south to Minnesota, northern Wyoming, and Oregon. In Wyoming it occurs outside of Region 2 on the Yellowstone Plateau and Absaroka Range in Park and Teton counties in Yellowstone National Park. Confidence in Rank High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hitchcock et al. 1969 • Raymond 1954
3 Dispersal Capability	D	It may be inferred that the bristly perianth is appropriate for wind dispersal across unsuitable habitat. Confidence in Rank High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hitchcock et al. 1969 • Raymond 1954
4 Abundance in R2	AD	Russet Cotton-grass is known from 4 extant occurrences (most recently observed in 1999) and 5 historical records in Wyoming. Both the Shoshone and Bighorn national forests have one extant occurrence, and the Shoshone has one historical occurrence. Census data are lacking. This species was reported as "rare and scarce" at one location in the southeastern Absarokas and "sparse" at Preacher Rock Bog in 1999. Russet Cotton-grass is ranked "S1S2" in Wyoming. Confidence in Rank High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fertig 1998, 1999 • Porter 1965 • University of Wyoming 1998 • Welp and Fertig 2000 • WYNDD 2002
5 Population Trend in R2	AD	Trends are not known, but at least 5 historical sites in Wyoming (and one in Region 2) have not been relocated in recent years, suggesting a possible downward trend. Confidence in Rank High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fertig 1998, 1999 • Porter 1965 • University of Wyoming 1998 • Welp and Fertig 2000

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6 Habitat Trend in R2	D	Trends are not known. Confidence in Rank High	• -
7 Habitat Vulnerability or Modification	BD	This species may be sensitive to the degradation of wetland habitats. It occurs in the Preacher Bog Special Interest Area on the Bighorn National Forest and on lands managed for multiple use by the Shoshone National Forest. Russet Cotton-grass also occurs in Yellowstone National Park. Confidence in Rank High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fertig 1998, 1999 • Hitchcock et al. 1969 • Porter 1965 • University of Wyoming 1998 • Welp and Fertig 2000
8 Life History and Demographics	D	Russet Cotton-grass is a rhizomatous perennial graminoid. Flowering and fruiting occur from May through August. Additional information on the species, including life history stages, population structure, longevity, mortality, and seed biology, are not available. Confidence in Rank High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hitchcock et al. 1969 • Raymond 1954 • Welp and Fertig 2000
Initial Evaluator(s): Joy Handley and Scott Laursen			Date: March 11, 2002

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

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.

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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
Arapaho-Roosevelt NF		Cimmaron NG		Samuel R. McKelvie NF		Black Hills NF		Shoshone NF	X
White River NF				Halsey NF		Buffalo Gap NG		Bighorn NF	X
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									

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