

ATTACHMENT SS2

REGION 2 SENSITIVE SPECIES EVALUATION FORM

Species: ***Bouteloua eriopoda* (Torr.) Torr. black grama**
 SYNONYMS: *Chondrosium eriopodum* Torr. [Weber & Wittman 2001]

Criteria	Rank	Rationale	Literature Citations
1 Distribution within R2	A	Known only from se-most (Baca and Las Animas Cos) CO and sw- and s-most (Comanche, Hamilton, Morton, and Stanton Cos) KS. [Vouchers at KANU from Baca Co, CO and Comanche, Hamilton, Morton, and Stanton Cos, KS.] Species reaches the ne limit of its range in R2. Reports that species occurs in WY (eg in Dorn and Freeman 1989) are unverified and presumably erroneous. Status: G5; KS S1. Confidence in Rank High or Medium or Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anderson 1950 • Clark 1996 • Dorn 1992 • Freeman 1989 • Freeman in prep. • Great Plains Flora Association 1977 • Rubright 2000 • Shaw et al. 1996 • Sutherland 1991 • Weber & Wittman 2001
2 Distribution outside R2	C	se-most CO and sw-most KS, s through w OK, w TX and n Mexico; thence n and w through NM, s UT, AZ and se CA (fide Correll & Johnston and Cronquist et al.). Confidence in Rank High or Medium or Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anderson 1984 • Correll & Johnston 1979 • Cronquist et al. 1977 • Freeman in prep. • Great Plains Flora Association 1977 • Martin & Hutchins 1980 • Sutherland 1991
3 Dispersal Capability	B	Species is found in shortgrass prairies and foothills on a variety of substrates, most commonly rocky or sandy soils (Freman). Evaluator was unable to find direct information on seed dispersal; however, I presume seed are wind dispersed. Confidence in Rank High or Medium or Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Freeman 1989 • Sutherland 1991
4 Abundance in R2	A	Where it has been collected in KS, species is reported on herbarium specimen labels as "rare" to "[locally] common." It does not appear that species occurs in abundance anywhere it is known in the s-most part of R2. Given that known populations are rather far apart, they may be subject to local extinction under some management practices [see section 8]. Confidence in Rank High or Medium or Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Freeman 1989
5 Population Trend in R2	D	Evaluator was able to find no information on population trends within any part of species' range. Confidence in Rank High or Medium or Low	

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Criteria	Rank	Rationale	Literature Citations
6 Habitat Trend in R2	A	<p>Freeman and Cronquist et al. report that species is palatable to cattle and may decline in abundance and frequency under intensive grazing [see sect 8]. While it is likely that species was never particularly abundant in R2, intensive livestock grazing on private lands may have led to decline or local extinction of species. In addition, conversion to cropland has resulted in significant losses of shortgrass prairie, perhaps including areas once inhabited by species. However, Freeman reported that what degradation of suitable habitat has occurred on the Cimarron NG was largely due to development for oil and gas drilling.</p> <p>Confidence in Rank High or Medium or Low</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cronquist et al. 1977 • Freeman 1989 • Ostlie et al. 1997
7 Habitat Vulnerability or Modification	B	<p>Where species occurs in upland shortgrass prairies, habitat is vulnerable to pressures from livestock grazing, conversion to cropland, and other human activities [see sect 6]. Of these, the most likely use is grazing, under which the species is reported to decline. The habitat itself may be somewhat more resilient, however.</p> <p>Confidence in Rank High or Medium or Low</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ostlie et al. 1997
8 Life History and Demographics	B	<p>Perennial grass. Flowering and fruiting mid July through mid October. Reported by Freeman to be "highly a palatable range species with excellent summer and winter forage value... It decreases under heavy grazing pressure and in the southwestern US where it is a common range grass, overgrazing often reduces the cover of this species to protected sites." Cronquist et al. add to this that species "does not hold up as well as <i>B. gracilis</i> and <i>B. curtipendula</i> under heavy grazing pressure."</p> <p>Confidence in Rank High or Medium or Low</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cronquist et al. 1977 • Freeman 1989
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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>Known</u>	<u>Likely</u>	<u>Kansas NF/NG</u>	<u>Known</u>	<u>Likely</u>	<u>Nebraska NF/NG</u>	<u>Known</u>	<u>Likely</u>	<u>South Dakota NF/NG</u>	<u>Known</u>	<u>Likely</u>	<u>Wyoming NF/NG</u>	<u>Known</u>	<u>Likely</u>
Arapaho-Roosevelt NF			Cimmaron NG	X3		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						Ogala NG						Medicine Bow NF		
San Juan NF												Thunder Basin NG		
Rio Grande NF														
Pawnee NG														
Pike-San Isabel NF														
Comanche NG		X2												

- 2 KANU catalog # 171753: CO, Las Animas Co: 7 mi S, 16 mi E Kim, just W of the Baca Co Line, head of Cottonwood Creek, an e tributary of Carrizo Creek, near the Bob Dodge Ranch, 8 Aug 1948, W.A. Weber 4393
- 3 Voucher specimens cited in Freeman (1989).

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