

ATTACHMENT SS2

REGION 2 SENSITIVE SPECIES EVALUATION FORM

Species: <i>Elymus villosus</i> / Slender Wild-rye			
Criteria	Rank	Rationale	Literature Citations
<p>1 Distribution within R2</p>	BD	<p>Region 2 covers a western portion of Slender Wild-rye's distribution. It occurs in all Region 2 states. In Wyoming, it is known from Black Hills National Forest in Crook County.</p> <p>Rangewide, this species is reported from sandy, shaley, or loamy soils in woods and streambanks (Great Plains Flora Association 1986). Wyoming populations are found in shady canyon bottoms, woods bordering creeks, and Bur oak/Ironwood communities at 3800-5600 feet. These riparian communities and deciduous forest communities of the Black Hills are limited across the landscape.</p> <p>Confidence in Rank High</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dorn 2001 • Fertig 2001 • Larson and Johnson 1999 • Nature Serve 2002 • Porter 1964
<p>2 Distribution outside R2</p>	C	<p>Outside Region 2, Slender Wild-rye occurs from Vermont to North Dakota and Wyoming, extending south to Georgia, Texas and New Mexico.</p> <p>Confidence in Rank High</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fertig 2001 • Gleason and Cronquist 1991 • Great Plains Flora Assoc. 1986 • Nature Serve 2002
<p>3 Dispersal Capability</p>	D	<p>Not known.</p> <p>Confidence in Rank High</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • -
<p>4 Abundance in R2</p>	BD	<p>Slender Wild-rye is known from 2 extant locations in Wyoming (both relocated or discovered since 1983) and 3 historical records. All 5 records are from the Black Hills National Forest.</p> <p>Populations range in size from less than 10 plants in patches of a few square feet to nearly 5500 individuals over several acres. The total population numbers in Wyoming are conservatively estimated at 15,000-25,000 plants, most of which are found in an extensive occurrence in the Sand Creek watershed. The total occupied habitat is in the range of 10-100 acres.</p> <p>Confidence in Rank Medium</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wyoming Natural Diversity Database 2002 • Fertig 1993 • Fertig 2000 • Fertig 2001 • Ode and Marriott 1990

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5 Population Trend in R2	D	Long-term trend data are not available for most Wyoming occurrences. The recent increase in the number of known populations may reflect improved survey effort rather than an actual population increase. It has often been assumed that this plant has declined historically because it is a robust grass that is palatable. Confidence in Rank High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WYNDD Database 2002 • Fertig 2000 • Fertig 2001
6 Habitat Trend in R2	A	Long-term trends of habitat decline are inferred, based on Black Hills land use patterns that include timber management, grazing, mining, recreational activity, and road construction along riparian corridors. Confidence in Rank Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fertig 2001
7 Habitat Vulnerability or Modification	B	Slender wild-rye may be impacted by grazing, competition from weeds, and loss of habitat to road and home construction. It may occur on lands managed for multiple use by Black Hills National Forest and the BLM Newcastle Field Office. An historical record is known from Devils Tower National Monument. Confidence in Rank High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fertig 2001 • University of Wyoming 1998
8 Life History and Demographics	D	Slender wild-rye is a tufted perennial grass. Most species of grass are wind-pollinated. Life history information on this 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"> • Fertig 2001 • Gleason and Cronquist 1991 • Great Plains Flora Assoc. 1986
Initial Evaluator(s): Bonnie Heidel and Scott Laursen			Date: February 21, 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
		Cimmaron NG		Samuel R. McKelvie NF		Black Hills NF	X	Shoshone NF	
				Halsey NF		Buffalo Gap NG		Bighorn NF	
				Nebraska NF		Ft. Pierre NG		Black Hills NF	X
				Ogalala NG				Medicine Bow NF	
								Thunder Basin NG	

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