

ATTACHMENT SS2

REGION 2 SENSITIVE SPECIES EVALUATION FORM

Species: ***Sorghastrum nutans* (L.) Nash Indian grass**

SYNONYM: *S. avenaceum* (Michx.) Nash [Great Plains Flora Association 1977; Weber & Wittman 1992, 2001]

Criteria	Rank	Rationale	Literature Citations
1 Distribution within R2	C	<p>Known from e-most (Crook and Goshen Cos) WY, e into sw and e SD and e through NE; thence s throughout KS; thence w into the e ½ of CO (where cited by Weber &amp; Wittman [2001a] as occurring “in tallgrass prairie remnants”). Also known from the sw ¼ of (Montrose and San Miguel Cos) CO, where Weber &amp; Wittman (2001b) that species was “probably introduced with road construction materials.” [Vouchers at KANU from Lincoln, Kit Carson, and Yuma Cos, Co; all 105 cos in KS; 28 cos in NE; and Brown, Deuel, Gregory, and Tripp Cos, SD.] Status: G5; WY S1</p> <p>Confidence in Rank <b>High</b> or <b>Medium</b> or <b>Low</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clark 1996</li> <li>• Clark &amp; Crawford 2000</li> <li>• Freeman 2000</li> <li>• Freeman in prep.</li> <li>• Great Plains Flora Association 1977</li> <li>• Hallsten et al. 1987</li> <li>• Hartman 1997</li> <li>• Rubright 2000</li> <li>• Shaw et al. 1996</li> <li>• Sutherland 1991</li> <li>• Weber 1995</li> <li>• Weber &amp; Wittman 2001a</li> <li>• Weber &amp; Wittman 2001b</li> </ul>
2 Distribution outside R2	C	<p>Widely distributed throughout the e and sw US and se Canada. Cited by Gleason &amp; Cronquist as “throughout [ne US and adjacent Canada], s to the Gulf [of Mexico], w to UT and AZ.”</p> <p>Confidence in Rank <b>High</b> or <b>Medium</b> or <b>Low</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gleason &amp; Cronquist 1991</li> </ul>
3 Dispersal Capability	C	<p>Seed is presumably wind dispersed; species occupies a very wide array of habitats.</p> <p>Confidence in Rank <b>High</b> or <b>Medium</b> or <b>Low</b></p>	
4 Abundance in R2	C	<p>Species is abundant throughout KS and NE, where it is a codominant member of the tallgrass prairies. Perhaps rare on the periphery of its range in WY and Weber &amp; Wittman cite it as “a relatively infrequent or at least not dominant plant of the tall-grass prairie remnants” of e CO, but species is certainly secure throughout e R2.</p> <p>Confidence in Rank <b>High</b> or <b>Medium</b> or <b>Low</b></p>	
5 Population Trend in R2	B	<p>Species is secure throughout the e part of R2 and can tolerate a considerable amount of disturbance. It is reportedly infrequent to rare in se WY and e CO, where existing populations should be protected, although evaluator has seen no evidence that populations are declining the w part of species’ range.</p> <p>Confidence in Rank <b>High</b> or <b>Medium</b> or <b>Low</b></p>	

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Criteria	Rank	Rationale	Literature Citations
6 Habitat Trend in R2	B	Species is found in a variety of upland habitats, especially in tallgrass prairies of e R2, less often in open woodlands, but also in more mesic microsites in central R2. Throughout the Great Plains, Ostlie et al. report that 96% of native tallgrass prairies have been lost within the past century, primarily through conversion to croplands. While this represents an enormous decline in its habitat, species is a fairly efficient colonizer and frequently showing up along road shoulders in e R2. Species has also been widely planted in CRP land throughout e KS and e NE, although these populations are probably of little conservation value. Confidence in Rank <b>High</b> or <b>Medium</b> or <b>Low</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ostlie et al. 1997</li> </ul>
7 Habitat Vulnerability or Modification	B	See sect 6 for comments about habitat loss. Species habitat continues to be vulnerable to conversion to cropland throughout R2. Confidence in Rank <b>High</b> or <b>Medium</b> or <b>Low</b>	
8 Life History and Demographics	B	Cespitose, perennial graminoid. Flowering and fruiting late July through late October. Species is reported to decline under heavy livestock grazing. Confidence in Rank <b>High</b> or <b>Medium</b> or <b>Low</b>	
Evaluator: Caleb A. Morse, R.L. McGregor Herbarium (KANU), University of Kansas Campus West, 2045 Constant Ave, Lawrence KS 66047			Date: 12/30/01

**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>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		X	Cimmaron NG	X2		Samuel R. McKelvie NF		X	Black Hills NF		X	Shoshone NF		
White River NF						Halsey NF	X3		Buffalo Gap NG		X	Bighorn NF		
Routt NF						Nebraska NF		X	Ft. Pierre NG		X	Black Hills NF		X
Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, Gunnison NF						Ogalala NG		X				Medicine Bow NF		
San Juan NF												Thunder Basin NG		
Rio Grande NF														
Pawnee NG		X												
Pike-San Isabel NF		X												
Comanche NG		X												

2 KANU catalog # 21424: KS, Morton Co: 3.5 mi NE Elkhart, 1 Oct 1972, S. *Stephens* 62932; KANU catalog # 21431: KS, Morton Co: 7 mi N, 4 mi W Elkhart, 9 Aug 1961, *E.L. Richards* 3562.

3 KANU catalog # 193911: NE, Thomas Co: ca 15 mi S Thedford, along Dismal River, 31 Aug 1965, *R.L. McGregor* 19672.

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