ATTACHMENT SS2

REGION 2 SENSITIVE SPECIES EVALUATION FORM

Species: ***Sporobolus airoides*** **(Torr.) Torr. alkali sacaton**

Criteria	Rank	Rationale	Literature Citations
1 Distribution within R2	C	Known from throughout WY (except, perhaps, nw-most and s-central parts); e to sw SD; thence s through the w ½ of NE (and rarely in e ½), and w ½ of KS; thence w through CO (where restricted to lower elevations?; largely absent from nw ¼). [Vouchers at KANU from Adams, Cheyenne, Crowley, Kiowa, Lincoln, Logan, Prowers, and Sedgwick Cos, CO; 17 cos in KS; Deuel, Keith, Scotts Bluff, and Sheridan Cos, NE; Fall River Co, SD; and Albany, Carbon, Converse, Johnson, Natrona, Niobrara, Washakie, and Weston Cos, WY.] Status: G5; CO S3(?); WY S4(?) Confidence in Rank **High** or Medium or Low	• Clark 1996 • Clark & Crawford 2000 • Freeman 2000 • Freeman in prep. • Hallstein et al. 1987 • Hartman 1997 • Rubright 2000 • Shaw et al. 1989 • Weber 1995 • Weber & Wittman 2001a • Weber & Wittman 2001b
2 Distribution outside R2	C	Range mapped by Peterson et al. from sw OR, e through s ID and the s ¾ of MT to sw ND; thence s and e to nw MO; thence s and w through the w ½ of OK; apparently throughout much of TX; thence w through s CA. Also in known from s BC and Mexico. Confidence in Rank **High** or Medium or Low	• Darbyshire 1985 • Peterson et al. in prep.
3 Dispersal Capability	C	Evaluator was unable to find any information about species' dispersal capability. I suspect seed is dispersed by a combination of vectors, including wind and vertebrate animals. R.L. McGregor (pers. comm.) notes that species is found in a wide variety of habitats, and often in disturbed sites. Ungar speculates that species' occurrence in Lincoln, NE, may be the result of recent introduction, perhaps by livestock. Confidence in Rank **High** or Medium or Low	• Ungar 1976
4 Abundance in R2	C	Species is cited by Van Bruggen as "infrequent on sandy soil and floodplains in w part [of SD]." However, species is cited by Weber & Wittman (2001b) as "abundant on low-lying alkaline flats" and (2001a) "very common on alkaline flats on the plains and San Luis Valley" and as a common element of saline wetlands in the panhandle of NE. Observation of herbarium specimen labels at KANU reveals that species is usually common to abundant where encountered, often becoming a dominant species. I suspect it is secure throughout the greater part of R2. Confidence in Rank **High** or Medium or Low	• Rolfsmeier 1993 • Van Bruggen 1976 • Weber & Wittman 2001a • Weber & Wittman 2001b
5 Population Trend in R2	B	Evaluator was unable to find any direct information about population trends within R2. Given the information on dispersal [sect 3] and habitat [sect 6], I suspect that populations are at least stable. Confidence in Rank High or **Medium** or Low	
6 Habitat Trend in R2	B	Cronquist et al. cite species as "a salt tolerant plant [that] is a characteristic bundgrass of low-lying alkaline meadows." R.L. McGregor (pers. comm.) informs me that species is often found in degraded sites in KS and probably benefits from some disturbance, particularly grazing by livestock. Confidence in Rank High or **Medium** or Low	• Cronquist et al. 1977

Species: ***Sporobolus airoides*** **(Torr.) Torr. alkali sacaton**

Criteria	Rank	Rationale	Literature Citations
7 Habitat Vulnerability or Modification	C	See comments in sect 6. Confidence in Rank High or **Medium** or Low	
8 Life History and Demographics	B	Cespitose, perennial graminoid. Flowering early to late June; fruiting mid June through late August. Cronquist et al. remark that species "becomes an important forage grass in [alkaline] habitats where higher quality grasses are not available." Confidence in Rank High or **Medium** or Low	• Cronquist et al. 1977

Evaluator:	Date: 01/04/02
Caleb A. Morse, R.L. McGregor Herbarium (KANU), University of Kansas Campus West, 2045 Constant Ave, Lawrence KS 66047	

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		X	Cimmaron NG	X3		Samuel R.McKelvie NF			Black Hills NF			Shoshone NF		
White River NF						Halsey NF			Buffalo Gap NG	X4		Bighorn NF		
Routt NF						Nebraska NF		X	Ft. Pierre NG			Black Hills NF		X
Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, Gunnison NF		X				Ogalala NG		X				Medicine Bow NF		X5
San Juan NF		X										Thunder Basin NG		X6
Rio Grande NF		X												
Pawnee NG	X2													
Pike-San Isabel NF		X												
Comanche NG		X												

2 Voucher cited in Hazlett (1998)

3 KANU catalog # 22176: KS, Morton Co: 7.5 mi N, 1 mi W Elkhart, Middle Springs area, 20 Jul 1976; KANU catalog # 22206: 6 mi N Wilburton, along Cimarron River, 12 Aug 1965, *W.T. Barker 1889*; KANU catolog # 86764: KS, Morton Co: ca 6.5 mi N, 4.5 mi W Elkhart, Cimarron NG, N bank of Cimarron River, T34S R43W S20 SW¼ NE¼ & SE¼ NW¼, Elev 3480–3490 ft, 5 Oct 1988, *C.C. Freeman 2789*; KANU catalog # 32050: KS, Morton Co: N side of Cimarron River, 1.5 mi E CO border, Cimarron NG, T34S R43W S20 N½, 30 Jul 1987, *C.C. Freeman 2439 & R.E. Brooks*.

[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.

4 KANU catalog # 194506: SD, Fall River Co: E Edgemont, between Cheyenne River and US Hwy 85A, T8S R3E S33 center N½, Elev ca 1048 m, 28 Jun 1957, *C.A. Taylor*.
5 KANU catalog # 194509: WY, Albany Co: 8 mi E Centennial, 12 Aug 1970, *S.Stephens 43618 & R. Brooks*.
6 KANU catalog # 194508: WY, Converse Co: 26.5 mi N Douglas, 13 Aug 1970, *S. Stephens 43733 & R. Brooks*; KANU catalog # 194513: WY, Converse Co: Ross Rd and Spring Creek, T37N R74W S23, Elev ca 5300 ft, 4 Aug 1978, *K.H. Dueholm 5402*.

REFERENCES

Clark, D.A. 1996. A floristic survey of the Mesa de Maya Region, Las Animas county, Colorado. Nat. Hist. Invent. Colorado 17: 1–44.

Clark, D. and C. Crawford. 2000. Preliminary floristic survey of Lincoln, Cheyenne, Kit Carson and Kiowa Counties: 2000 field season. Reported prepared for Colorado Natural Areas Program. 48 pp.

Cronquist, A., A.H. Holmgren, N.H. Holmgren, J.L. Reveal, and P.K. Holmgren. 1977. *Intermountain Flora Vol. 6: Monocotyledons*. New York Botanical Garden. Bronx, New York. 584 pp.

Darbyshire, S.J. 1984. *Sporobolus airoides* (Eragrosteae: Poaceae) in British Columbia. *Syesis* 17: 11–12.

Freeman, C.C. 2000. Floristic surveys of Cheyenne, Kiowa, Kit Carson, and Lincoln Counties, Colorado. Unpublished report submitted to the Colorado Natural Areas Program. 63 pp.

Freeman, C.C. (in prep.) Checklist of the Vascular Plants of the Grassland Biome of Central North America.

Hallstein, G.P., Q.D. Skinner, and A.A. Beetle. 1987. Grasses of Wyoming (3rd Edition). *Univ. Wyoming Agr. Exp. Sta. Res. J.* 202: 1–432.

Hartman, R.L. 1997. *Atlas of the Vascular Plants of Wyoming*. Published by the author at Rocky Mountain Herbarium, University of Wyoming. Laramie, Wyoming. [unpaginated]

Peterson, P.M., S.L. Hatch, and A.S. Weakley. (in prep.) *Sporobolus*, in Flora of North America Editorial Committee, *Flora of North America North of Mexico*.

Rolfsmeier, S.B. 1993. The saline wetland-meadow vegetation and flora of the North Platte River Valley in the Nebraska Panhandle. *Trans. Nebraska Acad. Sci.* 20: 13–24.

Rubright, L. 2000. *Atlas of the Grasses of Colorado*. Published by the author (copies available for purchase by email: Colopoa@aol.com). 313 pp.

Shaw, R.B., S.L. Anderson, K.A. Schulz and V.E. Diersin. 1989. Floral inventory for the USA army pinon canyon maneuver site, Colorado (USA). *Phytologia* 67: 1–42.

Ungar, I.A. 1976. *Sporobolus airoides* Torrey, an extension of its range in Lincoln, Nebraska salt marshes. *Rhodora* 78: 143–144.

Van Bruggen, T. 1976. *The Vascular Plants of South Dakota*. The Iowa State University Press. Ames, Iowa. xxvi + 538 pp.

Weber, W.A. 1995. Checklist of the vascular plants of Boulder County, Colorado. *Nat. Hist. Invent. Colorado* 16: 1–66.

Weber, W.A. and R.C. Wittman. 2001a. *Colorado Flora: Eastern Slope* (3rd Edition). University Press of Colorado. Boulder, Colorado. xl + 521 pp.

Weber, W.A. and R.C. Wittman. 2001b. *Colorado Flora: Western Slope* (3rd Edition). University Press of Colorado. Boulder, Colorado. xxxvii + 488 pp.