

ATTACHMENT SS2

REGION 2 SENSITIVE SPECIES EVALUATION FORM

Species: <i>Phippsia algida</i> / Ice Grass, Snow Grass			
Criteria	Rank	Rationale	Literature Citations
1 Distribution within R2	AD	<p>Ice Grass Grass is a circumpolar species that is disjunct in Region 2. It occurs on the Beartooth Plateau in Park County, Wyoming, on the Shoshone National Forest. It has also been reported from the Wind River Range in Fremont County by Scott (1997) on the Shoshone National Forest. In Colorado, it occurs on the Arapaho-Roosevelt, White River, and Pike-San Isabel National Forest. Therefore, additional information is necessary in order to determine its status in Region 2.</p> <p>This species is found in cold wet, rocky places at high elevations, often in a meltwater zone of receding snowbanks and along streams at 10,100 to 13,000 feet. Its alpine habitat is patchy on the landscape.</p> <p>Confidence in Rank High</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dorn 2001 • Fertig 1997, 1998, 2000 • Fertig and Bynum 1994 • Hallsten et al. 1987 • Johnson 1962 • Markow and Fertig 2000 • Scott 1997 • University of Wyoming 1998 • USDA Forest Service 2001 • Welp et al. 2000
2 Distribution outside R2	B	<p>It is a circumboreal species. In western North America it is found south to the Beartooth Plateau of Montana and adjoining Wyoming, as well as in Colorado. In Wyoming, it is also known from at least one station outside Region 2 in the Wind River Range in Sublette County.</p> <p>Confidence in Rank High</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clark et al. 1989 • Colorado Native Plant Society 1997 • Fertig and Jones 1994 • Markow and Fertig 2000 • Lesica and Shelly 1991 • Scott 1997 • Spackman et al. 1997
3 Dispersal Capability	D	<p>Dispersal vectors are unknown.</p> <p>Confidence in Rank High</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • -
4 Abundance in R2	AD	<p>Ice Grass is known from at least 3 occurrences in Wyoming, all of which have been discovered or relocated since 1984 (most recently in 1999). One occurrence is on the Shoshone National Forest. There are also 4 collection stations reported in Scott (1997) along the Continental Divide on the Wind River Range that may be in or outside of Region 2 boundaries. Populations are typically small and restricted to specialized microhabitats. Several populations surveyed on the Beartooth Plateau in 1996 consisted of colonies of about 30 plants in areas of less than 0.1 acre. This species is ranked "S1" in Wyoming and "S2" in Colorado.</p> <p>Confidence in Rank Medium</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fertig 1997, 1998, 2000 • Fertig and Bynum 1994 • Markow and Fertig 2000 • NatureServe 2002 • University of Wyoming 1998 • USDA Forest Service 2001 • Welp et al. 2000 • WYNDD 2002

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5 Population Trend in R2	D	No trend data are available. This species may benefit from moderate grazing activity (particularly from the increase in nitrogen from animal wastes), but it is not known what impacts long-term sheep grazing has had in the Beartooth Range. Confidence in Rank High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Markow and Fertig 2000 • WYNDD 2002
6 Habitat Trend in R2	D	Not known. Confidence in Rank High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • -
7 Habitat Vulnerability or Modification	BD	Ice Grass may be threatened by grazing, trampling, and habitat loss. It occurs in the Bridger Wilderness on the Bridger-Teton National Forest and the proposed Twin Lakes Research Natural Area of Shoshone National Forest, as well as on other lands managed for multiple use by the Shoshone National Forest. Confidence in Rank LOW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fertig 1997, 1998, 2000 • Fertig and Bynum 1994 • Fertig and Jones 1994 • Markow and Fertig 2000 • Welp et al. 2000
8 Life History and Demographics	D	Ice Grass is a low-growing, tufted, perennial graminoid. Flowering and fruiting occur from July through September. 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"> • Hallsten et al. 1987 • Markow and Fertig 2000 • Scott 1997 • University of Wyoming 1998
Initial Evaluator(s): Joy Handley, Bonnie Heidel and Scott Laursen			Date: April 22, 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>	Known	Likely	<u>Kansas NF/NG</u>	Known	Likely	<u>Nebraska NF/NG</u>	Known	Likely	<u>South Dakota NF/NG</u>	Known	Likely	<u>Wyoming NF/NG</u>	Known	Likely
Arapaho-Roosevelt NF	X		Cimmaron NG			Samuel R. McKelvie NF			Black Hills NF			Shoshone NF	X	
White River NF	X					Halsey NF			Buffalo Gap NG			Bighorn NF		
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	X													
Comanche NG														

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