

ATTACHMENT SS2

REGION 2 SENSITIVE SPECIES EVALUATION FORM

Species: Regal fritillary (*Speyeria idalia*)

Criteria	Rank	Rationale	Literature Citations
1 Distribution within R2	B1	The strongest populations of this declining butterfly are found in Kansas, Nebraska, and South Dakota within Region. The species found much more sparsely in eastern Colorado and eastern Wyoming. Confidence in Rank High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opler, Stanford, and Pavulaan. 2001. Butterflies of North America. Web site of USGS. Opler, P.A. 1999. Field Guide to Western Butterflies. Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston, 540 pp. Royer, R.A. and G.M. Marrone. 1992. Conservation status of the Regal Fritillary (<i>Speyeria idalia</i>) in North and South Dakota. Report to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Denver, Colorado. Ferris and Brown. 1981. Butterflies of the Rocky Mountain States. University of Oklahoma Press, Norman.
2 Distribution outside R2	C	Wide distribution to the north and east of Region, but many populations, especially east of the Mississippi are extirpated. Best remaining populations are within Region 2. Confidence in Rank High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opler, Stanford, and Pavulaan. 2001. Butterflies of North America. Web site of USGS. Ferris and Brown. 1981. Butterflies of the Rocky Mountain States. University of Oklahoma Press, Norman.
3 Dispersal Capability	C	Adults can fly quite well, and are apparently efficient at colonizing suitable habitat within intermediate distances. Confidence in Rank High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opler (personal assessment)
4 Abundance in R2	B	This species is relatively abundant in unplowed mid-grass and tall-grass prairie habitats in the region, but because it has been in steep decline elsewhere; I rank the species as a B rather than a C. Confidence in Rank Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opler (personal assessment)

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Criteria	Rank	Rationale	Literature Citations
5 Population Trend in R2	A	Although no specific information is available, the Regal Fritillary population is most likely in decline because of continuing losses of native prairie, invasion of alien weeds, and excessive use of fire as a management tool on prairies. Confidence in Rank High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opler (personal assessment)
6 Habitat Trend in R2	A	Regal Fritillary habitat is most likely in decline because of continuing losses of native prairie, invasion of alien weeds, and excessive use of fire as a management tool on prairies.	Opler (personal assessment)
7 Habitat Vulnerability or Modification	A	Native mid- and tall grass prairie habitat is extremely vulnerable to invasion by alien weeds, agricultural conversion, and excessive use of fire as a management tool.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opler (personal assessment)
8 Life History and Demographics	A	This species is dependant on particular types of grasslands and any alteration of the vegetational composition of these grasslands could result in local extirpations of the species. The Regal Fritillary uses violets, including prairie violet and Nuttall's violet, as its only caterpillar hosts. Adults nectar avidly on flowers of milkweeds, thistles, purple coneflowers, and other large composites. Confidence in Rank High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opler (personal assessment)
Initial Evaluator(s): Paul A. Opler, Professor, Colorado Statue University, Fort Collins, Colorado 80523			Date: 8/25/2001

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				
	X	Cimmaron NG		X	Samuel R. McKelvie NF		X	Black Hills NF		X	Shoshone NF		
					Halsey NF		X	Buffalo Gap NG		X	Bighorn NF		
					Nebraska NF		X	Ft. Pierre NG		X	Black Hills NF		X
					Ogalala NG		X				Medicine Bow NF		
											Thunder Basin NG		