

REGION 2 SENSITIVE SPECIES EVALUATION FORM

Species: Dusted skipper (<i>Atrytonopsis hianna</i>)			
Criteria	Rank	Rationale	Literature Citations
1 Distribution within R2	B	The dusted skipper occurs in all states of Region 2. Confidence in Rank High or Medium or Low	•
2 Distribution outside R2	C	Occurs from southern New England west across the Great Lakes states and southern Manitoba to the western Dakotas, eastern Wyoming and central Colorado. Ranges southward to the Gulf states and Texas (Opler and Krizek, 1984; Stanford and Opler, 1993; Opler, 1994). A. LOAMMI from eastern North Carolina to southern Florida is here regarded as a separate species. Confidence in Rank High or Medium or Low	• citations in references section
3 Dispersal Capability	D	Confidence in Rank High or Medium or Low	•
4 Abundance in R2	D	There are no data on dusted skipper numbers in Region 2. Confidence in Rank High or Medium or Low	•
5 Population Trend in R2	D	Assumed in decline based on widespread destruction of natural prairie and woodland habitats and maybe also excessive prescribed burning in prairie regions. Confidence in Rank High or Medium or Low	• www.natureserve.org
6 Habitat Trend in R2		Gulf Coast to Transition Zone open dry fields, open woodland, and prairie gulches (Scott, 1986). This skipper is found in bluestem grasslands, and often on acid pine or pine-oak barrens or prairies. Old fields, woodland clearings, and power-line swaths are also utilized. These habitats are subject to fire, and the butterfly must either survive burning or be a good colonist (Shapiro, 1965 in Opler and Krizek, 1984; Pyle, 1981). The larvae of this	• www.natureserve.org

Species: Dusted skipper (*Atrytonopsis hianna*)

Criteria	Rank	Rationale	Literature Citations
		<p>distinctive skipper feed on big bluestem (ANDOPOGON GERARDII) and little bluestem (SCHIZACHYRIUM SCOPARIUS) (Opler and Krizek, 1984; Scott, 1986). Larvae eat <i>A. gerardii</i> in the Ozark region, but the species seems to be associated with <i>S. SCOPARIUS</i> Michx. in Colorado (Ferra and Brown, 1981). Adults take nectar from Japanese honeysuckle, blackberry, wild strawberry, vervain, red clover, phlox, and wild hyacinth (Opler and Krizek, 1984), and from blackberry, strawberry, and clover (Stanford, 1981). Adults nectar mainly on <i>Penstemon</i> species in the western Great Plains and Rocky Mountain foothills (Opler, pers. obs.). Several disjunct western populations comprise our subspecies [turneri], which inhabits relatively undisturbed canyons and open pine woods from 5300' to 7200'(1600-2200m) in our region [Rocky Mtn.]. Males perch in flat clearings or gullies, usually on the ground (Stanford, 1981).</p> <p>Unknown. Habitat (bluestem grasslands, often on acid pine or pine-oak barrens or prairies) may be threatened in much of range. Widespread alteration, fragmentation, and destruction of prairie habitats has effected and isolated populations of prairie dwelling species, leaving them susceptible to local extinction due to stochastic events or anthropogenic disturbance (Panzer, 1988). But still extensive populations in places, e.g. north Texas, Nebraska sandhills (Opler, pers. comm.). Small prairie occurrences may or may not be threatened by excessive fires. Difficult to comment on habitat trend in Region 2. Loss of undisturbed prairie is an alarm because the species is attracted to such habitats. On NFS lands, especially National Grasslands, there is very little unused grassland or rest areas, or areas with light grazing.</p> <p>Confidence in Rank High or Medium or Low</p>	
<p>7 Habitat Vulnerability or Modification</p>	<p>D</p>	<p>Appears to be somewhat tolerant of some habitat alteration, based on association with old fields, woodland clearings, airports, and powerline swaths. However, fragility may be increased as the skipper is usually found in localized colonies (Opler and Krizek, 1984). Prairies and Woodlands containing food plants are threatened by weedy invasion in some parts of the</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • citations in references section

Species: Dusted skipper (*Atrytonopsis hianna*)

Criteria	Rank	Rationale	Literature Citations
		range. In prairies, necters mainly on Penstemon species. Confidence in Rank High or Medium or Low	
8 Life History and Demographics	D	Confidence in Rank High or Medium or Low	•
Initial Evaluator(s): John Sidle			Date: 7/12/01

National Forests in the Rocky Mountain Region where species is KNOWN (K) or LIKELY(L)¹ to occur:

<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
Arapaho-Roosevelt NF	L	Cimmaron NG	L	Samuel R.McKelvie NF	L	Black Hills NF	L	Shoshone NF	
White River NF				Halsey NF	L	Buffalo Gap NG	L	Bighorn NF	
Routt NF				Nebraska NF	L	Ft. Pierre NG	L	Black Hills NF	
Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, Gunnison NF				Ogalala NG	L			Medicine Bow NF	
San Juan NF								Thunder Basin NG	L
Rio Grande NF									
Pike-San Isabel NF	L								
Comanche NG	L								

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.

References

- Brown, F. M. 1957. Colorado Butterflies. Proceedings; numbers Three through Seven. Denver Museum of Natural History, Denver, Co.
- Miller, L. D. and F. M. Brown 1981. A Catalogue/Checklist of the Butterflies of America North of Mexico. The Lepidopterists' Society; Memoir No. 2.
- Opler, P. A. 1994. County Atlas for Eastern United States Butterflies. National Biological Service. Fort Collins, CO.
- Opler, P. A. and G. O. Krizek. 1984. Butterflies East of the Great Plains.
- Panzer, Ron. 1988. Managing prairie remnants for insect conservation. Natural Areas Journal, vol. 8, no. 2, 83-89.
- Pyle, Robert Michael. 1981. The Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Butterflies. Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., New York. 915 pp.
- Scott, James A. 1986. The Butterflies of North America: A Natural History and Field Guide. Stanford University Press, Stanford, California.
- Stanford, R. E. 1981. Hesperioidea. In: Ferris, C. D. and F. M. Brown. Butterflies of the Rocky Mountain States. University of Oklahoma Press, Norman. pp. 67-140.
- Stanford, Ray E. and Paul A. Opler. 1993. Atlas of Western USA Butterflies. Denver and Fort Collins, Colorado. 275 pp.