

ATTACHMENT SS2

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 Medium	•
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	• Citations in references section
3 Dispersal Capability	D	Confidence in Rank High	•
4 Abundance in R2	D	There are no data on Dusted Skipper numbers in Region 2. Confidence in Rank High	•
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	• www.natureserve.org

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Criteria	Rank	Rationale	Literature Citations
<p>6 Habitat Trend in R2</p>		<p>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 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 (Ferris 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 sand hills (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 Medium</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • www.natureserve.org
<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 power line 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 range. In prairies, nectars mainly on <i>Penstemon</i> species.</p> <p>Confidence in Rank High</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Citations in references section

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8 Life History and Demographics	D	Confidence in Rank High	•
Initial Evaluator(s): John Sidle, Nebraska National Forest			Date: 7/12/2001

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
	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
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.

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