

ATTACHMENT SS2

REGION 2 SENSITIVE SPECIES EVALUATION FORM

Species: Dakota skipper (<i>Hesperia dacotae</i>)			
Criteria	Rank	Rationale	Literature Citations
1 Distribution within R2	A2	Butterfly is limited to 11 counties in northeast South Dakota within the region. Butterfly is only found on native tall and mid-grass prairies. Confidence in Rank High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opler, P.A. 1998. Field Guide to Eastern Butterflies. Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston. Opler, Stanford, and Pavulaan. 2001. Butterflies of North America. Web site of USGS. 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.
2 Distribution outside R2	B	Outside of Region found only in North Dakota and Minnesota. Extirpated in Illinois and Iowa. Confidence in Rank High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opler, Stanford, and Pavulaan. 2001. Butterflies of North America. Web site of USGS. 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.
3 Dispersal Capability	B	Adults can fly quite well, and may be efficient at colonizing suitable habitat within short distances.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opler (personal assessment)
4 Abundance in R2	A	Conversion of unplowed prairie and pastures in northeast South Dakota could lead to imperilment with the region.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opler (personal assessment)
5 Population Trend in R2	D	Insufficient information on which to base estimate of trend.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opler (personal assessment)

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Criteria	Rank	Rationale	Literature Citations
6 Habitat Trend in R2	D	Insufficient information on which to base estimate of trend. Preferred habitat is native prairie dominated by needle-and-thread grass. Adults prefer to nectar on purple coneflower (Echinacea) but will also nectar on yellow composites. Males perch on hilltops or ridges to await females.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opler (personal assessment)
7 Habitat Vulnerability or Modification	A	Native prairie is susceptible to agricultural conversion or catastrophic fire.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opler (personal assessment)
8 Life History and Demographics	A	Populations are sensitive to habitat disturbance and are easily lost from prairies that are too small, burnt too often, or have vegetative changes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opler (personal assessment)
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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
		Cimmaron NG		Samuel R.McKelvie NF		Black Hills NF		Shoshone NF	
				Halsey NF		Buffalo Gap NG		Bighorn NF	
				Nebraska NF		Ft. Pierre NG		Black Hills NF	
				Ogalala NG				Medicine Bow NF	
								Thunder Basin NG	

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.