

ATTACHMENT SS2

REGION 2 SENSITIVE SPECIES EVALUATION FORM

Species: Rhesus Skipper (<i>Polites rhesus</i>)			
Criteria	Rank	Rationale	Literature Citations
1 Distribution within R2	B1	Rhesus Skipper is a short-grass prairie specialist found in all states within region (but only a single Kansas County). Confidence in Rank High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opler, P.A. 1999. Field Guide to Western Butterflies. Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston, 540 pp. Opler, Stanford, and Pavulaan. 2001. Butterflies of North America. Web site of USGS. Stanford, R.E. 1991. Hesperioidea <i>in</i> Ferris and Brown. Butterflies of the Rocky Mountain States. University of Oklahoma Press, Norman.
2 Distribution outside R2	C	Found in New Mexico and Arizona south into Mexico. A single county reported for Texas based on a sight record. Confidence in Rank High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opler, Stanford, and Pavulaan. 2001. Butterflies of North America. Web site of USGS. Stanford, R.E. 1991. Hesperioidea <i>in</i> Ferris and Brown. Butterflies of the Rocky Mountain States. University of Oklahoma Press, Norman.
3 Dispersal Capability	B	Adults can fly quite well, and may be efficient at colonizing suitable habitat within short distances. Confidence in Rank High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opler (personal assessment)
4 Abundance in R2	D	Insufficient information is available upon which to base any sort of estimate. Confidence in Rank High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opler (personal assessment)
5 Population Trend in R2	A	Populations are lost as native prairie is converted to agriculture or subjected to fire. This is an ongoing process and new habitats are not being created at a pace sufficient to keep up with losses. Confidence in Rank High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opler (personal assessment)

ATTACHMENT SS2

Species: Rhesus Skipper (<i>Polites rhesus</i>)			
Criteria	Rank	Rationale	Literature Citations
6 Habitat Trend in R2	A	Suitable habitats are lost as native prairie is converted to agriculture or subjected to fire. This is an ongoing process and new habitats are not being created at a pace sufficient to keep up with losses. Confidence in Rank High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opler (personal assessment)
7 Habitat Vulnerability or Modification	A	Habitat is extremely vulnerable to development of any kind or overuse of fire management. Confidence in Rank High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opler (personal assessment)
8 Life History and Demographics	A	Populations occupy most suitable habitats and do not recolonize after habitats are disturbed by fire or other disturbance unless another occupied habitat is nearby. Caterpillar host plant is blue grama grass ("Bouteloua gracilis") and adults nectar at species of Astragalus and yellow composites. Confidence in Rank Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opler (personal assessment)
Initial Evaluator(s): Paul A. Opler, Professor, Colorado Statue University, Fort Collins, Colorado 80523			Date: 08/25/2001

ATTACHMENT SS2

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

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

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.