

ATTACHMENT SS2

REGION 2 SENSITIVE SPECIES EVALUATION FORM

Species: <i>Crotalus viridis concolor</i> – midget faded rattlesnake			
Criteria	Rank	Rationale	Literature Citations
1 Distribution within R2	B	Western rattlesnakes are typically common in appropriate habitat away from human disturbance.  <b>Medium</b> confidence	•
2 Distribution outside R2	C	Most of the species and subspecies distribution is outside the region 2 area.  <b>High</b> confidence	•
3 Dispersal Capability	C	Western rattlesnakes have been shown to make round trip seasonal movements of >20 km in the US, >60 km in southern Canada. Rattlesnakes suffer high mortality when crossing roads and are subject to predation by many other species when moving.  <b>High</b> confidence	•
4 Abundance in R2	B	Very limited distribution in region 2 if present. Locally common in areas outside R2, including areas in NW Colorado, E Utah and southwestern Wyoming.  <b>High</b> confidence	•
5 Population Trend in R2	D	No data available. Elsewhere in range, populations are either stable or declining slowly due to direct human persecution. Most occur in sparsely populated areas. Subject to high mortality (often intentional) on roads throughout range. Predilection to aggregate during winter denning makes them susceptible to local extirpation.  <b>High</b> confidence.	•
6 Habitat Trend in R2	B	Most appropriate habitat likely stable; generally occurs in regions of low human density. Some conversion for recreation areas has been deleterious to species.  <b>High</b> confidence	•
7 Habitat Vulnerability or Modification	B	Habitat vulnerable to disturbance because of low capacity for rapid regeneration. However, most populations occur in sparsely populated areas (exception: vicinity of Grand Junction, CO) and so receive passive protection.  <b>High</b> confidence	•

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8 Life History and Demographics	B	Relatively low reproductive output. Females may become gravid no more than once every two years – clutch size relatively small (usually 5-8). High neonate/juvenile mortality, relatively low adult mortality. Long lived species (>20 years possible).  <b>High confidence</b>	•
Initial Evaluator(s): Dr. Stephen P. Mackessy			Date: 12/4/2001

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

May occur in lower elevation drier habitat in Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and White River NFs. However, Hammerson (1999) considers all *Crotalus viridis* from Montrose Co. Colorado south to be either intergrades of *viridis* and *concolor* or *viridis* subspecies. Ashton and de Quiroz have recently (2001) proposed including *concolor* in the new species group *Crotalus oreganus*, distinct from *Crotalus viridis*.

<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	X	Bighorn NF	
				Nebraska NF		Ft. Pierre NG	X	Black Hills NF	
	?			Ogalala NG				Medicine Bow NF	
								Thunder Basin NG	

<sup>1</sup> 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.