ATTACHMENT SS2

REGION 2 SENSITIVE SPECIES EVALUATION FORM

Species: ***Apolone mutica (Trionyx muticus)*** **– smooth softshell turtle**

Criteria	Rank	Rationale	Literature Citations
1 Distribution within R2	A	This species prefers permanent sandy/muddy rivers, some of which come close to region 2 areas in SD and NE (see below). We have found the spiny softshell (Apalone spinifera) in small intermittent streams with permanent ponds in the S section of Comanche NG, so smooth softshells may occur in similar habitat in region 2. **Medium** confidence	•
2 Distribution outside R2	C	Most of species distribution is outside of the region. **High** confidence	•
3 Dispersal Capability	B	Likely disperses only along permanent waterways. Significant distances are possible along river corridors. **High** confidence	•
4 Abundance in R2	B	Likely uncommon (perhaps locally common) in appropriate habitat within region. **High** confidence	•
5 Population Trend in R2	D	No data within region. Because this is a species which is tied to permanent waterways, it is expected to be affected negatively by water pollution, overuse and diversion. May benefit by creation/restoration of permanent wetlands habitat. **Medium** confidence.	•
6 Habitat Trend in R2	D	No data within region. However, a general trend is loss of good aquatic habitat for these species due to pollution, overuse/diversion etc. **Medium** confidence	•

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Criteria	Rank	Rationale	Literature Citations
7 Habitat Vulnerability or Modification	A	Habitat sensitive to pollutants etc. as detailed above; riparian and aquatic habitats nationwide in general have declined significantly in quantity and quality. Also, species nests in sandy banks along waterways, making it subject to loss of nesting grounds due to offroad vehicle use, diversion, stabilization of river banks (loss of sandy habitat), etc. **High** confidence	•
8 Life History and Demographics	B	Relatively long-lived, lower reproductive rate. Nests subject to predation by native and introduced species (primarily mammal) and habitat loss. **Medium** confidence	•
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)[1] to occur:

Possible near Fort Pierre NG, along Missouri River and in larger streams in the area. Possible in permanent streams in/near Samuel McKelvie NF and Halsey NF.

[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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Colorado NF/NG	**Known**	**Likely**	**Kansas NF/NG**	**Known**	**Likely**	**Nebraska NF/NG**	**Known**	**Likely**	**South Dakota NF/NG**	**Known**	**Likely**	**Wyoming NF/NG**	**Known**	**Likely**
Arapaho-Roosevelt NF			Cimmaron NG			Samuel R.McKelvie NF		?	Black Hills NF			Shoshone NF		
White River NF						Halsey NF		?	Buffalo Gap NG			Bighorn NF		
Routt NF						Nebraska NF			Ft. Pierre NG		?	Black Hills NF		
Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, Gunnison NF						Ogalala NG						Medicine Bow NF		
San Juan NF												Thunder Basin NG		
Rio Grande NF														
Pike-San Isabel NF														
Comanche NG														
Pawnee NG														