

ATTACHMENT SS2

REGION 2 SENSITIVE SPECIES EVALUATION FORM

Species: <i>Kinosternon flavescens flavescens</i> – yellow mud turtle			
Criteria	Rank	Rationale	Literature Citations
1 Distribution within R2	B	The yellow mud turtle occurs in west-central Nebraska, southeastern Colorado, and western Kansas.  Confidence in Rank <b>High</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ernst et al. 1994</li> </ul>
2 Distribution outside R2	C	South-central U.S. and adjacent northern Mexico; north to Nebraska, west to southern Arizona (Conant and Collins 1991). Isolated population in Illinois-Iowa-Missouri. See Iverson (1989) for information on distribution in Arizona and Sonora.  Confidence in Rank <b>High</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ernst et al. 1994</li> </ul>
3 Dispersal Capability	D	Confidence in Rank <b>Medium</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>
4 Abundance in R2	A	Accurate estimates are unavailable, but based on widespread distribution and comments on abundance, there are surely many more than 10,000 individuals. Generally abundant historically (Pope 1939) and currently (Conant and Collins 1991). In most parts of Southwest, probably more abundant now than historically, due to abundance of small reservoirs for cattle (Iverson 1989). Total population in northeastern Missouri in 1991 was estimated at 600-800 (Figg 1991).  Confidence in Rank <b>Low</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="http://www.natureservice.org">www.natureservice.org</a></li> </ul>
5 Population Trend in R2	D	Probably stable, but may be experiencing very slow declines due to changes in the natural hydrology of native habitats. Even so, this species is at least moderately tolerant of manmade habitats. Bickham et al. (1984) found no evidence of a significant decrease in distribution of the Iowa-Illinois-Missouri population within recent historical time. Herkert (1992) reported declines in Illinois.  Confidence in Rank <b>Medium</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="http://www.natureservice.org">www.natureservice.org</a></li> </ul>

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Species: <i>Kinosternon flavescens flavescens</i> – yellow mud turtle			
Criteria	Rank	Rationale	Literature Citations
6 Habitat Trend in R2	A	Not very threatened range-wide. Not generally threatened, although local threats may impact some populations. Herkert (1992) reported declines in Illinois caused by conversion of ponds and sloughs to agricultural use and degradation of sandy terrestrial habitat by forestry, agriculture, road construction, and overgrazing. Increased numbers of predators (e.g., raccoons, coyotes, foxes, and others) may limit reproductive success in some areas. Other threats of variable significance in different areas include declining water tables, water pollution, and disturbance and collection by humans. In the Great Plains agricultural activities threaten the species. Species is viewed as critically imperiled in Colorado, vulnerable in Nebraska, and secure in Kansas.  Confidence in Rank <b>Medium</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="http://www.natureservice.org">www.natureservice.org</a></li> </ul>
7 Habitat Vulnerability or Modification	B	Inhabits various quiet or slow-flowing bodies of water, usually with soft mud or sand bottom, in areas of grassland and open woodland, desert in Southwest. Disjunct Missouri-Illinois-Iowa population inhabits natural marshes, oxbow lakes, and flooded fields in areas of sandy soil (sand prairie, scrub oak savanna) (Brown and Moll 1978, Johnson 1987); rarely moves more than 200 m from pond edges. Often in temporary water. Often travels overland. Seeks shelter underground on land or burrows in mud underwater.  Confidence in Rank <b>Medium</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="http://www.natureservice.org">www.natureservice.org</a></li> </ul>
8 Life History and Demographics	D	Likely sensitive to disturbances; difficult to predict response, unless habitat changes occur – species will decline. This non-sexual species is essentially clonally reproducing.  <b>High confidence</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>
Initial Evaluator(s): John Sidle			Date: 07/09/2001

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

<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.

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<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		L	Samuel R. McKelvie NF		L	Black Hills NF		Shoshone NF		
					Halsey NF		L	Buffalo Gap NG		Bighorn NF		
					Nebraska NF			Ft. Pierre NG		Black Hills NF		
					Ogalala NG					Medicine Bow NF		
										Thunder Basin NG		
	L											

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