

ATTACHMENT SS2

REGION 2 SENSITIVE SPECIES EVALUATION FORM

Species: <b>Sceloporus undulatus elongatus / Northern Plateau Lizard</b>			
Criteria	Rank	Rationale	Literature Citations
<b>1</b> Distribution within R2	<b>A</b>	Distribution of this subspecies of lizard within R2 is very limited. It occurs in extreme southwestern and south-central Wyoming, and along the border of western Colorado. In Wyoming it is known from the Green River Valley/Flaming Gorge area, and from a disjunct population in the North Platte River Valley in Carbon County. It is not known to occur in any of the R2 forests or grasslands within Wyoming. In Colorado this lizard can be found along the western edge of the state, and is known or likely to occur in, or adjacent to, the Uncompahgre and White River National Forests. The preferred habitat of this lizard is sunny rocky cliffs, outcrops, and canyons in sagebrush communities. Vegetation adjacent to and among the rocks is highly variable and may range from coniferous montane forest, to open woodlands, to mountain shrublands, to grassy dunes, and prairies.  Confidence in Rank <b>High</b>	1,2,3,4,5,6
<b>2</b> Distribution outside R2	<b>B</b>	The distribution of this lizard outside of the Rocky Mountain Region consists of fairly contiguous populations in eastern Utah, northeastern Arizona, and northwestern New Mexico.  Confidence in Rank <b>High</b>	1,5,6
<b>3</b> Dispersal Capability	<b>B</b>	Dispersal characteristics are not well known, especially for the young, but dispersal at a very small scale is thought to occur within the appropriate habitats. In Colorado, males have been documented moving 70 to 120 meters from the location at which they emerge from hibernation, in order to establish a home range. Surviving young tend to occupy the same home range in successive years, but can shift to new locations in order to adapt to changing food sources, habitat, and social structure. A study in Colorado showed that when a population was experimentally depopulated, it was recolonized quickly from the surrounding areas.  Confidence in Rank <b>Low</b>	5
<b>4</b> Abundance in R2	<b>D</b>	This subspecies of lizard is probably rare in R2, but abundance data was lacking. It seems to be more common outside of R2, and on BLM and privately-owned lands. In the western parts of Colorado it is considered common throughout much of its historical range, but again exact population numbers are not available.  Confidence in Rank <b>Low</b>	5

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<b>5</b> Population Trend in R2	<b>D</b>	There is not sufficient data to draw any conclusions about this criterion. Throughout its historical range in Colorado the population is thought to have remained stable, but the Wyoming population is thought to have declined in the 1960's when the Flaming Gorge Dam was constructed and much of the local habitat was flooded. The Flaming Gorge population receives minimal protection.  Confidence in Rank <b>Low</b>	2,5
<b>6</b> Habitat Trend in R2	<b>D</b>	Difficult to assess due to a lack of relevant data. Some habitat was destroyed in the Flaming Gorge area in the 1960's when the dam was built and the area was flooded. The preferred habitat is somewhat variable and probably stable overall.  Confidence in Rank <b>Low</b>	2
<b>7</b> Habitat Vulnerability or Modification	<b>B</b>	Habitat is probably most vulnerable to urban and rural development, which can result in the complete destruction, or varying degrees of degradation.  Confidence in Rank <b>Low</b>	5
<b>8</b> Life History and Demographics	<b>A</b>	This subspecies of lizard usually lays 2 clutches, of 8 eggs each, in May and June. The survival rate for yearlings is 30%, and once they reach adulthood it becomes 35%. Sexual maturity isn't reached until 2 years of age, and life expectancy ranges from 1 to 3 years on average. Predators of this subspecies include larger lizards and snakes, and loggerhead shrikes, kestrels, and some mammals. Given the relatively low survival rates of this subspecies, in conjunction with questionable abundance numbers, this subspecies would probably have difficulties responding to disturbances.  Confidence in Rank <b>Medium</b>	1,2,5,6
Initial Evaluator(s): Darby Dark-Smiley, Research Scientist, Wyoming Natural Diversity Database.			Date: July 26, 2001

Literature Citations:

- 1) Baxter, G.T. and M.D. Stone. 1985. Amphibians and Reptiles of Wyoming. Wyoming Game & Fish Department.
- 2) Wyoming Natural Diversity Database. 2001. Unpublished data. University of Wyoming, Laramie, Wyoming.
- 3) Colorado Gap Analysis Program. 2001. Species distribution models: <http://ndis.nrel.colostate.edu/cogap/cogaphome.html>.
- 4) Colorado Species Occurrence and Abundance Tool. 2001. Species abundances by county: <http://ndis.nrel.colostate.edu/ndis/countyab/>
- 5) Hammerson, G.A. 1999. Amphibians and Reptiles in Colorado. University Press of Colorado and Colorado Division of Wildlife, Niwot, Colorado.

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6) Behler, J.L. and F.W. King. 1979. National Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Reptiles and Amphibians. Alfred A. Knopf, Inc. Publishing, New York, New York.

**National Forests in the Rocky Mountain Region where species is KNOWN (K) or LIKELY(L)<sup>1</sup> 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>						
<u>Known</u>	<u>Likely</u>	<u>Known</u>	<u>Likely</u>	<u>Known</u>	<u>Likely</u>	<u>Known</u>	<u>Likely</u>	<u>Known</u>	<u>Likely</u>					
Arapaho-Roosevelt NF	-	-	Cimmaron NG	-	-	Samuel R.McKelvie NF	-	-	Black Hills NF	-	-	Shoshone NF	-	-
White River NF	-	1,2				Halsey NF	-	-	Buffalo Gap NG	-	-	Bighorn NF	-	-
Routt NF	-	-				Nebraska NF	-	-	Ft. Pierre NG	-	-	Black Hills NF	-	-
Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, Gunnison NF	1,2	-				Ogalala NG						Medicine Bow NF	-	-
San Juan NF	-	-										Thunder Basin NG	-	-
Rio Grande NF	-	-												
Pike-San Isabel NF	-	-												
Comanche NG	-	-												
<u>Pawnee NG</u>	-	-												

Primary Sources:

- 1 CO GAP, 2001 - predicted distribution map.
- 2 Hammerson. 1999 – known distribution map for Colorado.

<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.