

<b>SPECIES: Scientific [common]</b>	<i>Asio flammeus</i> [Short-eared Owl]
<b>Forest:</b>	Bridger-Teton National Forest
<b>Forest Reviewer:</b>	Randall Griebel, James Wilder
<b>Date of Review:</b>	01/16/2018; reviewed 5/13/2025
<b>Forest concurrence (or recommendation if new) for inclusion of species on list of potential SCC: (Enter Yes or No)</b>	NO

**FOREST REVIEW RESULTS:**

1. The Forest concurs or recommends the species for inclusion on the list of potential SCC:  
Yes \_\_\_ No X \_\_\_
2. Rationale for not concurring is based on (check all that apply):  
Species is not native to the plan area \_\_\_  
Species is not known to occur in the plan area \_\_\_  
Species persistence in the plan area is not of substantial concern  X  \_\_\_

**FOREST REVIEW INFORMATION:**

1. Is the Species Native to the Plan Area? Yes X \_\_\_ No \_\_\_  
  
If no, provide explanation and stop assessment.
2. Is the Species Known to Occur within the Planning Area? Yes X \_\_\_ No \_\_\_  
  
If no, stop assessment.

**Table 1.** All Known Occurrences, Years, and Frequency within the Planning Area

<b>Year Observed</b>	<b>Number of Individuals</b>	<b>Location of Observations (USFS District, Town, River, Road Intersection, HUC, etc.)</b>	<b>Source of Information</b>
1991-1992	3	Jackson Ranger District Unknown location along 24.5 Breeding Bird Survey route-Gros Ventre River	Wyoming Natural Diversity Database (January 2018)
2005	1	Pinedale Ranger District, Just west of the Wind River Range	Wyoming Natural Diversity Database (January 2018)

- a. Are all Species Occurrences Only Accidental or Transient?  
  
Yes \_\_\_ No X \_\_\_

If yes, document source for determination and stop assessment.

- b. For species with known occurrences on the Forest since 1990, based on the number of observations and/or year of last observation, can the species be presumed to be established or becoming established in the plan area?

Yes\_\_\_ No\_X\_\_

If no, provide explanation and stop assessment

*Short-eared owls are native to Wyoming (Map 1) and found in low numbers with patchy distribution. Most of the Short-eared owl habitat identified in Wyoming is located outside the BTNF within sagebrush flats and open grassland habitat (Map 2). According to the observation records, this is also where the populations of Short-eared owls are established. The species prefers open habitat including: intermountain, prairie, and coastal grasslands, sagebrush steppe, marshes, arctic tundra, and shrub-steppe plateaus (WGFD 2017).*

*The record from 2005 is from a credible source and the observation was documented in a mixed-conifer/Whitebark pine vegetation type on the edge of alpine habitat. The 1991 and 1992 observation locations are unknown and are likely located within the suitable habitat that is identified just outside the forest boundary, north of the National Elk Refuge. One additional observation was recorded in June 2021 just inside the Forest boundary near the Snow King resort. Additional observations outside the BTNF are to the south and east of the Forest, and few historic records are located within the Snake River valley of Jackson Hole and the National Elk Refuge – all within open grassland/sagebrush habitat. The low number of observations on the Bridger-Teton National Forest (Map 3) and the absence of Short-eared owl habitat, indicates there is not an established population on the Forest. (See final review in table 2 below).*

Wyoming Game and Fish Department. 2017. State Wildlife Action Plan. Short-eared owl (*Asio flammeus*).

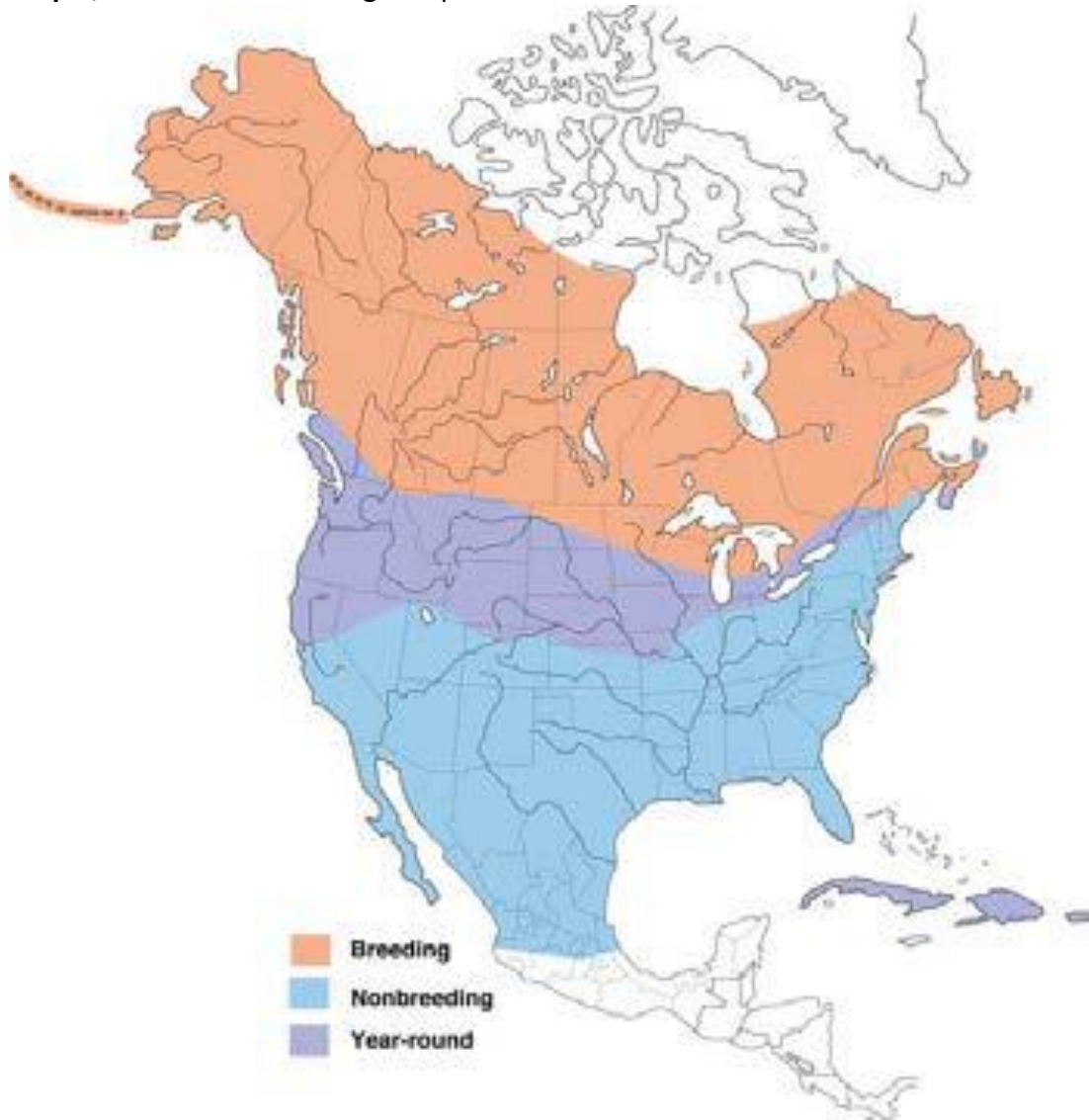
- c. For species with known occurrences on the Forest predating 1990, does the weight of evidence suggest the species still occurs in the plan area?

Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_

Provide explanation for determination

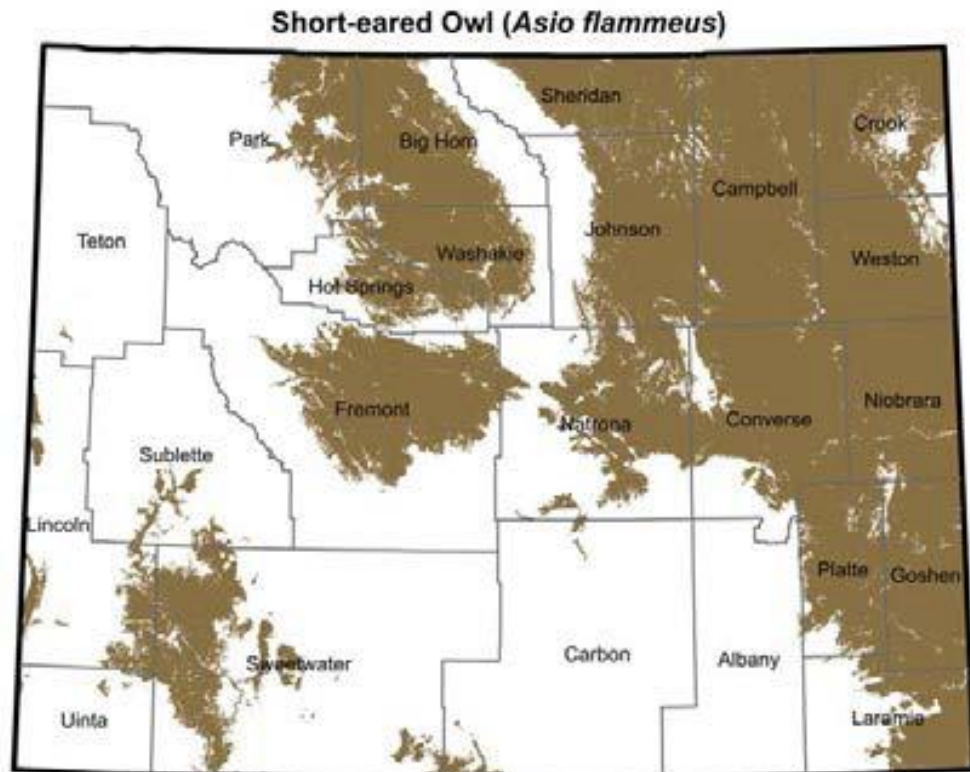
If determination is no, stop assessment

d. **Map 1**, Short-eared owl range map of North America



Wyoming Game and Fish Department. 2017. State Wildlife Action Plan. Short-eared owl (*Asio flammeus*).

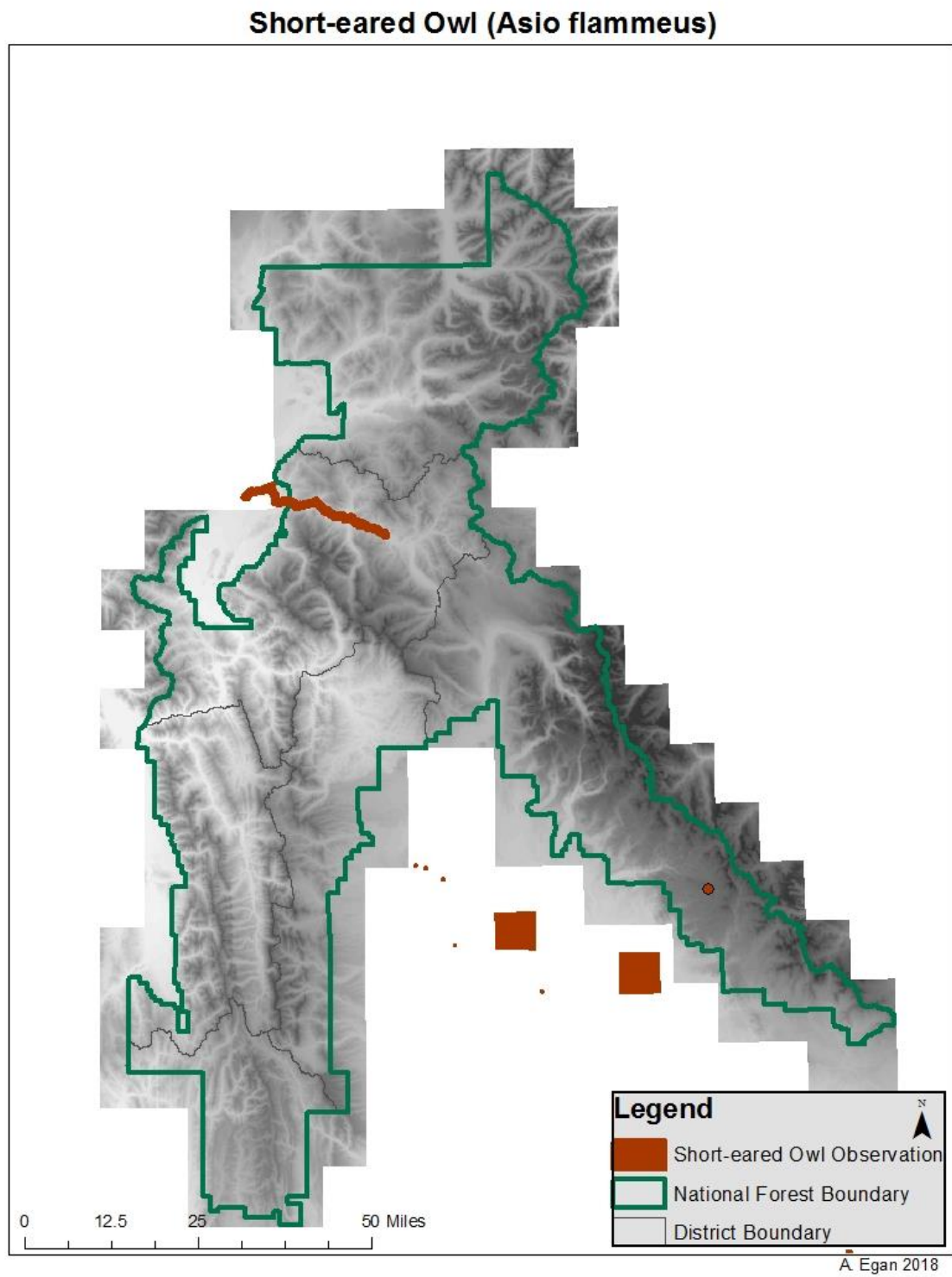
- e. **Map 2**, Range and predicted distribution of *Asio flammeus* in Wyoming.



SOURCE: Digital maps of ranges for Wyoming Species of Greatest Conservation Need: Sept. 2016. Wyoming Game and Fish Department and Wyoming Natural Diversity Database, University of Wyoming, Laramie, Wyoming. Note that brown indicates the predicted distribution of the species; heavy black lines indicate outermost boundaries of possible occurrence.

Wyoming Game and Fish Department. 2017. State Wildlife Action Plan. Short-eared owl (*Asio flammeus*)

- f. **Map 3**, Map of Short-eared owl occurrences on the Bridger-Teton National Forest since 1990 (Wyoming Natural Diversity Database [January 2018])



3. Is There Substantial Concern for the Species' Capability to persist Over the Long-term in the Plan Area Based on Best Available Scientific Information?

**Table 2.** Status summary based on best available scientific information.

Species (Scientific and Common Name): <i>Asio flammeus</i> [Short-eared Owl]		
Criteria	Rationale	Literature Citations
Distribution on Bridger-Teton National Forest	NA	
Abundance on the Bridger-Teton National Forest	NA	
Population Trend on the Bridger-Teton National Forest	NA	
Habitat Trend on the Bridger-Teton National Forest	NA	
Vulnerability of Habitats on the Bridger-Teton National Forest	NA	
<p><b>Summary and recommendations:</b> While the Bridger-Teton National Forest is within the year-round range for Short-eared owls (Map 1), the Forest is generally outside the habitat range as identified by WYNDD (Map 2). The few observation records on the BTNF do not indicate that there is an established population of Short-eared owls on the Forest. Additionally, the majority of the current and historic observation records are located outside the Forest boundary, in what is identified as suitable habitat for Short-eared owls. For these reasons, there is no concern for the species persistence on the planning unit. Therefore, it is recommended that the Short-eared owl is not a Species of Conservation Concern for the Bridger-Teton National Forest.</p> <p>Evaluator(s): Ashley Egan, Randall Griebel</p>		Date: January 9, 2018

