1. **Species:** Olive-sided Flycatcher (*Contopus cooperi*)

2. **Status:** Table 1 summarizes the current status of this species or subspecies by various ranking entity and defines the meaning of the status.

Table 1. Current status of *Contopus cooperi*

Entity	Status	Status Definition
NatureServe	G4	*Species is Apparently Secure* At fairly low risk of extinction or elimination due to an extensive range and/or many populations or occurrences, but with possible cause for some concern as a result of local recent declines, threats, or other factors.
CNHP	S3S4B	*Species is Vulnerable* At moderate risk of extinction or elimination due to a fairly restricted range, relatively few populations or occurrences, recent and widespread declines, threats, or other factors. (B=Breeding)
Colorado State List Status	SGCN, Tier 2	Species of Greatest Conservation Need
USDA Forest Service	R2 Sensitive	Region 2 Regional Forester's Sensitive Species
USDI FWS[b]	N/A	N/A

[a] Colorado Natural Heritage Program.
[b] US Department of Interior Fish and Wildlife Service.

The 2012 U.S. Forest Service Planning Rule defines Species of Conservation Concern (SCC) as "a species, other than federally recognized threatened, endangered, proposed, or candidate species, that is known to occur in the plan area and for which the regional forester has determined that the best available scientific information indicates substantial concern about the species' capability to persist over the long-term in the plan area" (36 CFR 219.9). This overview was developed to summarize information relating to this species' consideration to be listed as a SCC on the Rio Grande National Forest, and to aid in the development of plan components and monitoring objectives.

3. Taxonomy

Genus/species *Contopus cooperi* is accepted as valid (ITIS 2015).

4. Distribution, abundance, and population trend on the planning unit [12.53.2,3,4]:

The olive-sided flycatcher breeds widely across boreal forests of Canada and the northern United States, extending south along riparian, montane, and subalpine forests of the Rocky Mountains, Sierra Nevada Mountains, and in isolated areas in southern California and northern Baja (Altman and Sallabanks 2012).

Within Region 2, olive-sided flycatchers are largely restricted to forested areas of the Rocky Mountains in Colorado and Wyoming. Peak densities of olive-sided flycatchers based on BBS data closely correspond to the distribution of spruce/fir forests. This species is generally absent from intermountain parks and the eastern plains. The principal wintering range of olive-sided flycatchers is in northern portions of South America and along the Andean Mountains (Kotliar 2007).

In the Western United States, the Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) trends are largely negative, except for portions of the central and southern Rocky Mountains where there are no significant trends. However, in USFS Region 2, only Colorado had a sufficient number of routes (n = 46) to assess population trends; Colorado had no significant trends between 1966 and 2004 (Kotliar 2007). The species appears to be fairly common, but not widespread within the planning area with potential decreasing trend locally along two long-term BBS routes within the RGNF (R. Ghormley, pers. comm. 2015).

Table 2. Known Occurrence Frequency within the Planning Area (NRIS database)

Known Occurrences in the past 20 years	30
Year Last Observed	2014

5. Brief description of natural history and key ecological functions [basis for other 12.53 components]:

In USFS Region 2, olive-sided flycatchers are more commonly found at higher elevations in spruce/fir forests, but they are less frequently observed in aspen/mixed coniferous, ponderosa pine, riparian, and occasionally pinyon/juniper forests. They are not usually observed in mature lodgepole pine stands because of the even-aged, closed canopy structure typical of these forests (Kotliar 2007).

Olive-sided flycatchers frequently nest in early successional post-fire forests in all montane and subalpine forest types (Hutto 1995, Altman and Sallabanks 2012, Kotliar et al. 2002 cited in Kotliar 2007).

Nests are most commonly found in live coniferous trees. In addition, they typically use short-needled conifers (e.g., Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziessi*), hemlock (*Tsuga heterophylla)*, true firs (*Abies*), and spruce (*Picea*)) more frequently than long-needled trees (e.g., ponderosa pine) (Kotliar and Clouse 2000). Deciduous trees are not typically used for nesting (Altman and Sallabanks 2000). Nests have been found as low as 5 feet and as high as 200 feet; higher placement heights are associated with taller trees in the western U.S. (Kotliar 2007).

During migration, olive-sided flycatchers use a greater diversity of forest types, such as lowland and deciduous forests, than they use during the breeding season. In Colorado, migrants occur in all types of woodlands (Andrews and Righter 1992 cited in Kotliar 2007).

Olive-sided flycatchers are primarily aerial insectivores. Foraging occurs in forest openings, along edges, and over forest canopies. They often use prominent perches, especially snags and dead-topped trees (Wright 1997, Altman 1999a, N. Kotliar unpubl. data, cited in Kotliar 2007).

In Colorado, spring arrivals peak in mid- to late May. In Colorado, nest building begins as early as June 5, and egg laying occurs between June 16 and July 20, peaking between June 23 and July 3rd. In Colorado, fledged young have been reported as early as June 23 and as late as August 4 (Kotliar 2007).

6. Overview of ecological conditions for recovery, conservation, and viability [12.53 7, 9?, 10, 11, 12]:

Kotliar (2007) describes the following management recommendations for olive-sided flycatcher:

- Natural disturbance regimes can provide general guidelines for management until a better understanding of the effects of logging practices on olive-sided flycatchers can be determined.

- Incorporate essential olive-sided flycatcher habitat characteristics (e.g., snags, appropriate scaling of forest openings) where appropriate.

- In addition, wildland fire use will continue to be an important source of olive-sided flycatcher habitat in Region 2.

- Fuels treatments that create even-aged forest structures while reducing the risk of severe disturbances that otherwise would create heterogeneous forest conditions could negatively affect olive-sided flycatchers.

7. Threats and Risk Factors

By altering frequency, severity, and other fire characteristics, fire management (e.g., wildland fire use, fire suppression, prescribed fire, forest thinning) can affect the availability of olive-sided flycatcher habitat on national forests. Wildland fire use, especially mixed- and high-severity fires, creates olive-sided flycatcher habitat, whereas reduction of fire frequency through suppression activities can reduce habitat availability (Kotliar 2007).

Although olive-sided flycatchers often breed in logged forests throughout their range, there is conflicting evidence about the relative suitability of these sites. They have been observed in small (3 ac) cuts in spruce/fir forests on the Fraser Experimental Forest, but were absent prior to logging and were not observed in adjacent unlogged forests (Scott et al. 1982 cited in Kotliar 2007). The species was generally absent, however, in larger clearcut forests (12 to 100 ac; Kotliar and Melcher 1998 cited in Kotliar 2007), many of which were xeric lodgepole pine with sparse ground cover. In more mesic forests of the northern Rocky Mountains, olive-sided flycatchers readily use a variety of logged forests (Hutto and Young 1999). However, the evidence for reduced nesting success in logged forests suggests that it may be incorrect to assume that these forests provide suitable alternative habitats for olive-sided flycatchers (Kotliar 2007).

8. Key literature:

Altman, Bob and Rex Sallabanks. 2012. Olive-sided Flycatcher (*Contopus cooperi*), The Birds of North America Online (A. Poole, Ed.). Ithaca: Cornell Lab of Ornithology; Retrieved from the Birds of North America Online: http://bna.birds.cornell.edu/bna/species/502. [07/07/2015].

Ghormley, R. 2015. Randy Ghormley, Forest Wildife Biologist, Rio Grande National Forest. Personal Communication.

Hutto, R.L. and J.S. Young. 1999. Habitat relationships of landbirds in the northern region, USDA Forest Service. General Technical Report RMRS-GTR-32.

Kotliar, N.B. 2007. Olive-sided Flycatcher (*Contopus cooperi*): a technical conservation assessment. [Online]. USDA Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Region. Available: http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/projects/scp/assessments/olivesidedflycatcher.pdf [06/29/2015].

9. Map of Known Occurrences and Modeled Suitable Habitat

Modeled suitable olive-sided flycatcher habitat consists of all forested stands in habitat structural stage 4A, totaling 61,504 acres. In addition, recent wildfires (2002, 2005, and 2013) occur with the planning area and total 97,346 acres (Figure 1).

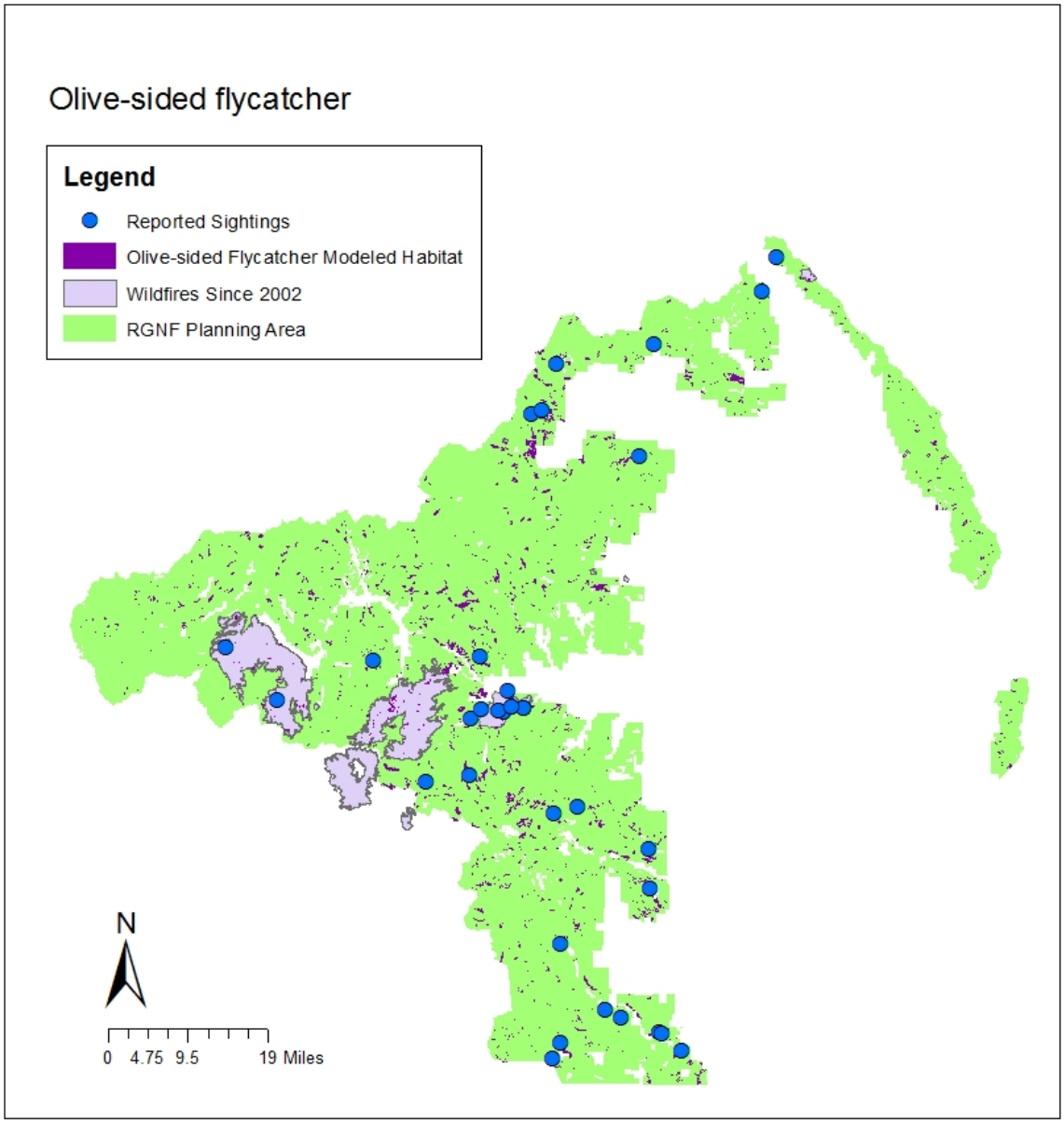

Figure 1. Olive-sided Flycatcher Modeled Habitat and Known Occurrences.