

ATTACHMENT SS2

REGION 2 SENSITIVE SPECIES EVALUATION FORM

Species: <b><i>Contopus cooperi</i></b> – Olive-sided flycatcher			
Criteria	Rank	Rationale	Literature Citations
<b>1</b> Distribution within R2	<b>B</b>	The olive-sided flycatcher breeds widely in suitable habitat (primarily spruce-fir forest) across coniferous forest habitats of Colorado and Wyoming, it's primary breeding range in R2. Limited breeding apparently occurs in the Black Hills of South Dakota.  Confidence in Rank <b>High</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1,2,3</li> </ul>
<b>2</b> Distribution outside R2	<b>C</b>	Breeds widely across Alaska and Canada, and throughout the forests of western and northeastern U.S., including the Great Lakes and the Appalachian mountain chain. Winters in Central and South America.  Confidence in Rank <b>High</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1,2</li> </ul>
<b>3</b> Dispersal Capability	<b>D</b>	While I did not identify any information that specifically addressed dispersal capability, that capability is implied by its intercontinental migratory capability. The species long distance movement ability is unquestioned. Although suitable breeding habitat is patchy, forest cover in the region is generally interconnected to a degree that dispersal between suitable habitat seems likely. The degree to which the species will disperse across wide expanses of unsuitable habitat, however, is not known.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1,2</li> </ul>
<b>4</b> Abundance in R2	<b>C</b>	The species is considered to be a common summer resident in the mountains of Colorado and Wyoming; with Heritage Rank of S3B/S4B in Colorado, and S4B in Wyoming. Still, species abundance is highly patchy, depending on the distribution of suitable habitat. In highly suitable habitat, the species may become quite abundant.  Confidence in Rank <b>High</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1,2,3</li> </ul>
<b>5</b> Population Trend in R2	<b>A</b>	BBS trend data demonstrate a substantial range-wide population decline since 1966 of around 70%. Causes of declines are not well known.  Confidence in Rank <b>High</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1,2,4</li> </ul>

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<p><b>6</b> Habitat Trend in R2</p>	<p><b>A</b></p>	<p>Habitat likely has been declining in R2 due to decades of fire suppression, incompatible harvest strategies and techniques, salvage logging, and other management practices that result in increased forest density, canopy closure, reduced frequency of openings, and reduced snag abundance. This is a species of the forest-opening ecotone and a colonizer of post-disturbance event environments. These habitat types have been in decline as a consequence of human suppression of natural disturbance processes.</p> <p>Confidence in Rank <b>Medium</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>
<p><b>7</b> Habitat Vulnerability or Modification</p>	<p><b>B</b></p>	<p>Heritage rank of S3-S4 in Colorado, S4 in Wyoming. While it's widespread distribution may justify a current G4 ranking, the species is considered moderately threatened rangewide. While studies have demonstrated an increase in breeding activity in many post-logging environments, some evidence is accruing that many harvest strategies may create the appearance of post-fire or other natural disturbance conditions, but with significant underlying differences that prove to create an "ecological trap". A study in western Oregon demonstrated substantially higher nest success in post-fire environments than in a variety of post-logging environments. Timber harvest should seek to mimic natural disturbance processes, while leaving numerous snags, large blocks of late-successional forest, and ample structure for insect production. Decades of fire suppression may have substantially reduced suitable habitat in many areas by reducing forest openings and snag availability. Loss of late-successional forest may have reduced habitat quality; as has post-fire and post-blowdown salvage. Pesticide control of forest insects is a suspected but unproven risk. USFWS listed the olive-sided flycatcher as a species of management concern in 1995.</p> <p>Confidence in Rank <b>Medium</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1</li> </ul>

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<p><b>8</b> Life History and Demographics</p>	<p><b>C</b></p>	<p>In the Southern Rockies, the species is most common in high elevation spruce-fir forest, especially old growth - opening ecotones with a prevalence of standing dead trees and water. These conditions are often created around mountain valley wetland complexes, post-burn and blowdown environments in which numerous standing snags remain, and similar situations. The presence of water and a high water table in wetland complexes helps create ideal conditions, including snag availability and an abundant insect food source. The species may become quite abundant under post-fire conditions. Timber harvest may create suitable habitat when it mimics natural disturbance processes and necessary structure remains. However, there is also concern that many harvest strategies may create an “ecological trap”. The species seems to prefer habitat near water – probably because water tends to produce the best juxtaposition of key habitat elements - but is not limited to sites of immediate water availability. Openings, conifers, snags, and an abundant insect food source are the crucial elements.</p> <p>Reproductive rate appears to be relatively high in quality habitat; and there is no information indicating a particular susceptibility to disease, predation, or competition.</p> <p>Confidence in Rank: <b>High</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1,2,4</li> </ul>

Initial Evaluator(s): Gary Patton

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

1. Natureserve
2. Kingery, H., ed. 1998. Colorado breeding bird atlas. Colorado Bird Atlas Partnership. Co-published by Colorado Division of Wildlife
3. Wyoming Biodiversity Node, Species Atlas. University of Wyoming.
4. Hutto, R. and J. Young. 1999. Habitat relationships of landbirds in the northern region, USDA Forest Service. USDA Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station. General Technical Report RMRS-GTR-32.

<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.