

REGION 2 SENSITIVE SPECIES EVALUATION FORM

Species: ***Oryzopsis pungens*** (Torr.) Hitchc. (*Piptatherum p.*) / northern ricegrass/ slender mountain-ricegrass / ORPU(PIPU7)  
 (Scientific Name/Common Name/National Code for Plants – USDA PLANTS)

Criteria	Rank	Rationale	Literature Citations
1 Distribution within R2	B	Black Hills of SD & WY. Central CO.  Confidence in Rank <b>Medium</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• VanBruggen 1985, GPFA 1986, GPFA 1977, Weber 1976, Weber 1987.</li> </ul>
2 Distribution outside R2	C	Boreal North America from Nfdl. to YUK, south to BC, ALB, SASK, IA, WI, MI, WV. Disjunct in Black Hills and CO.  Confidence in Rank <b>High</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gleason 1952, NatureServe 2001.</li> </ul>
3 Dispersal Capability	B	No obvious dispersal mechanisms. Seeds ca. 3mm long, pubescent with short awn.  Confidence in Rank <b>Low</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gleason 1952</li> </ul>
4 Abundance in R2	B	SD: Occasional to infrequent in Ponderosa pine forests throughout much of the Black Hills at 4,000 to 7,000 ft. CO: Infrequent in pine forests: Cochetopa Divide, Arkansas Divide. WY: Single 1950 collection from Black Hills.  Probably undercollected: "...inconspicuous and easily overlooked. It is especially difficult to detect after the florets have been shed from the contracted panicles," (Larson 1993). Confidence in Rank <b>Medium</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SDNHD 2001, Larson &amp; Johnson 1999, Weber 1987, Weber &amp; Wittmann 2001, WYNDD 2001, Larson 1993.</li> </ul>
5 Population Trend in R2	D	  Confidence in Rank <b>Medium</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>
6 Habitat Trend in R2	BC	Inhabits relatively dry, rocky or sandy soils of coniferous forests. It's possible that pine expansion from fire suppression has expanded habitat for this species.  Confidence in Rank <b>High or Medium or Low</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>
7 Habitat Vulnerability or Modification	C	  Confidence in Rank <b>Medium</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>

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Criteria	Rank	Rationale	Literature Citations
8 Life History and Demographics	D	Reproduces vegetatively from tillers in tussocks and by seed.  Confidence in Rank <b>Medium</b>	•
Evaluator(s): David J. Ode			Date: 21 November, 2001

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

Species Name:									
<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
		Cimarron NG		Samuel R. McKelvie NF		Black Hills NF	X	Shoshone NF	
				Halsey NF		Buffalo Gap NG		Bighorn NF	
				Nebraska NF		Ft. Pierre NG		Black Hills NF	X
				Ogalala NG				Medicine Bow NF	
								Thunder Basin NG	

<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.

## Sources Cited

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