

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Blanca Greasewood Flats

Site Code S.USCOHP*24714

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 2092 Site Class PCA
Site Alias None

Network of Conservation Areas (NCA)

<u>NCA Site ID</u>	<u>NCA Site Code</u>	<u>NCA Site Name</u>
-		No Data

LOCATORS

Nation United States Latitude 372624N
State Colorado Longitude 1053144W

Quad Code Quad Name

37105-D5 Blanca

County

Costilla (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name

13010002 Alamosa-Trinchera

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	7,700.00 Feet	2,346.96 Meters
Maximum Elevation	7,700.00 Feet	2,346.96 Meters

Site Description

This site is comprised of 150+ acres of greasewood (*Sarcobatus vermiculatus*) flats. Greasewood and saltgrass (*Distichlis spicata*) dominate much of the area, however Baltic rush (*Juncus balticus*) is dominant in wet meadows. Other species present include sedges (*Carex* sp.), arrowgrass (*Triglochin* sp.), and horsetail (*Equisetum* sp.). Non-natives such as Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), Russian thistle (*Salsola kali*), and kochia (*Kochia scoparia*) are also common. Cattle grazing occurs on site and is negatively affecting species composition as indicated by the prevalence of non-natives and native increasers. Slender spiderflower (*Cleome multicaulis*) is found in the wet meadow area. Only a few plants were observed but more may be present in adjacent areas.

Key Environmental Factors

Groundwater discharge.

Climate Description

No Data

Land Use History

Grazing.

Cultural Features

No Data

SITE DESIGN

Site Map Y - Yes Mapped Date 05/04/2004

Designer Rocchio, F.J.

Boundary Justification

The boundary is drawn to encompass the ecological processes believed necessary for long-term viability of the element. The boundaries provide many source areas for seed dispersal to buffer long-term population fluctuations of the element. The boundary does not encompass the source of surface and ground water input to the site, thus any changes in the current status of groundwater pumping and water diversions from areas that recharge groundwater would likely affect the element.

Primary Area 153.73 Acres 62.21 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site supports a fair (C-ranked) occurrence of a globally imperiled (G2G3/S2S3) plant species. The slender spiderflower (*Cleome multicaulis*) has a global range from southern Wyoming to central Mexico. The San Luis Valley contains the most numerous, largest, and healthiest populations in the world. Slender

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spiderflower has a limited distribution due to its requirement of moist alkaline soil along with periodic soil disturbance. These habitat requirements limit the slender spiderflower to the edges of alkaline wet meadows and playas.

Other Values Rank No Data

Other Values Comments

No Data

LAND MANAGEMENT ISSUES

Land Use Comments

Grazing.

Natural Hazard Comments

No Data

Exotics Comments

[Rocchio 2004:] Resting the areas from additional grazing will increase the vigor of native wetland species, which may help control the spread of non-native species.

Offsite

No Data

Information Needs

No Data

ASSOCIATED ELEMENTS OF BIODIVERSITY

<u>Element</u>			<u>Global</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Driving</u>
<u>State ID</u>	<u>State Scientific Name</u>	<u>State Common Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Site Rank</u>
18080	<i>Cleome multicaulis</i>	slender spiderflower	G2G3	S2S3	Yes

REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
184706	Rocchio, J. 2004. Final Report: Survey of Critical Wetlands and Riparian Areas in Southern Alamosa and Costilla Counties, San Luis Valley, Colorado. Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Fort Collins, CO.

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date 05/04/2004
Version Author Rocchio, F.J.

Disclaimer

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