

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Blue Mountain to Phantom Canyon

Site Code S.USCOHP*1647

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 1829 Site Class PCA
Site Alias Blue Mountain
Site Alias Maroon Falls Canyon
Site Alias Rock Creek

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 383706N
State Colorado Longitude 1050947W

Quad Code Quad Name

38104-F7	Cheyenne Mountain
38104-F8	Mount Big Chief
38104-E8	Mount Pittsburg
38105-E1	Phantom Canyon
38105-F2	Cripple Creek South
38105-F1	Big Bull Mountain
38105-E2	Cooper Mountain

County

El Paso (CO)
Teller (CO)
Fremont (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name

11020002	Upper Arkansas
11020003	Fountain

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	-	Feet	-	Meters
Maximum Elevation	-	Feet	-	Meters

Site Description

This site encompasses a vast area of forested, mountainous land located to the west of the Fort Carson Military Reservation. The site is dissected by several major creeks (Rock Creek, Little Fountain Creek, Little Turkey Creek, Turkey Creek, Beaver Creek, Red Creek, Millsap Creek, and Eightmile Creek) which meander through steep, rocky canyons as they flow southeastward to the plains. Areas along the creeks are dominated by mixed riparian forests of narrowleaf cottonwood (*Populus angustifolia*), Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), blue spruce (*Picea pungens*), white fir (*Abies concolor*), and alder (*Alnus incana*). Upland areas have mixed conifers, including ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*), lodgepole pine (*P. contorta*), pinon pine (*P. edulis*), Rocky Mountain juniper (*Juniperus scopulorum*) and one seed juniper (*J. monosperma*), as well as aspen (*Populus tremuloides*). An aerie (nest) of the globally common Prairie Falcon (*Falco mexicanus*) also is located within the site.

Key Environmental Factors

No Data

Climate Description

No Data

Land Use History

No Data

Cultural Features

No Data

SITE DESIGN

Site Map P - Partial Mapped Date 03/20/2006

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Designer Gaughan, C.R.

Boundary Justification

Most polygons were drawn as Protected Activity Centers (PAC's) for the USFWS Mexican Spotted Owl species recovery plan (USFWS 1995), with additional locations drawn by CNHP. The site boundary encompasses twelve known use areas, including nesting sites, of the Mexican Spotted Owl. Two known nest locations of the American Peregrine Falcon also exist. Mexican Spotted Owls tend to nest in tall trees with relatively closed canopies in steep, narrow canyons whereas American Peregrine Falcons prefer tall, inaccessible cliffs. Home ranges and feeding areas for these raptorial species are extensive and reach far beyond the boundaries of the site. The vastness of the areas used by these birds should be considered in the management of the surrounding forest.

Primary Area 12,150.09 Acres 4,916.99 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

The site supports a good (B-ranked) occurrence of the globally vulnerable (G3T3) and state critically imperiled (S1B) Mexican Spotted Owl (*Strix occidentalis lucida*), a species classified as Threatened by the state of Colorado and the federal government. The site also supports two occurrences of the globally and state vulnerable (G4T3/S3B, SZN) American Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus anatum*), a federally Endangered subspecies.

Other Values Rank No Data

Other Values Comments

No Data

LAND MANAGEMENT ISSUES

Land Use Comments

No Data

Natural Hazard Comments

No Data

Exotics Comments

No Data

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>
17954	<i>Strix occidentalis lucida</i>	Mexican Spotted Owl	G3T3	S1B,SUN	Yes
21725	<i>Falco peregrinus anatum</i>	American Peregrine Falcon	G4T4	S2B	Yes
21725	<i>Falco peregrinus anatum</i>	American Peregrine Falcon	G4T4	S2B	No

REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
171768	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 1995. Recovery plan for the Mexican spotted owl (STRIX OCCIDENTALIS LUCIDA). Volume 1. Albuquerque, New Mexico. 172 pp.

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

Original Blue Mountain site design by Gionfriddo, J.P. 2001-05-18.

VERSION

Version Date 03/20/2006
Version Author Gaughan, C.R.

Disclaimer

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