

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Cache la Poudre River

Site Code S.USCOHP*25031

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 2151 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 404023N
State Colorado Longitude 1051435W

<u>Quad Code</u>	<u>Quad Name</u>
40105-E2	Horsetooth Reservoir
40105-F2	Laporte
40105-F4	Big Narrows
40105-F3	Poudre Park

County

<u>Watershed Code</u>	<u>Watershed Name</u>
10190007	Cache La Poudre

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	5,085.00 Feet	1,549.91 Meters
Maximum Elevation	7,385.00 Feet	2,250.95 Meters

Site Description

The Cache la Poudre River (Poudre River) flows from west to east across central Larimer County. This site includes over 20 miles of the Poudre River and the following major tributaries: Young Gulch, Hewlett Gulch, and Lewstone Creek. The floodplain of the Poudre River and its tributaries is composed of gravel and silts and is defined by steep cliffs and gentle terraces. Willows, cottonwood galleries, and dense herbaceous cover dominate the riparian communities. Surrounding uplands are generally open grasslands or mountain mahogany shrublands, with ponderosa pine woodlands at higher elevations.

Key Environmental Factors

The major environmental factors impacting this site are related to the hydrology of the system. These impacts can be seasonal flooding, beaver activity, and natural succession.

Climate Description

No Data

Land Use History

No Data

Cultural Features

No Data

SITE DESIGN

Site Map P - Partial Mapped Date 06/16/2004
Designer Schorr, R.A.

Boundary Justification

This site includes the riparian and upland grassland habitat components used by the Preble's meadow jumping mouse (PMJM). Included within the boundary are dense herbaceous and shrub riparian communities and upland grassland communities free from urban impacts. The site includes the riparian area and a 1,000-foot (300-meter) buffer. Based on telemetry studies and trapping results in other areas where PMJM are found, these boundaries should provide the necessary habitat components for long-term stability of the population found there. It includes all known PMJM captures in this drainage, plus additional habitat upstream and downstream of these capture locations. The buffer distance of 300 meters is intended to be conservative, likely including a greater amount of upland community than most mice will utilize, but sufficient in all circumstances to ensure persistence of jumping mice. A more refined boundary for this site would include the 100-year floodplain and an additional 100 meters of adjacent upland habitat. Until these data

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layers are available for all areas within the site, the present boundary should provide for the persistence of the Preble's meadow jumping mouse in this area. The largeness of this site provides a degree of protection from stochastic and site-specific events that may affect portions of the population.

Primary Area 17,902.89 Acres 7,245.07 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site supports one good (B-ranked) and several poor (D-ranked) occurrences of the globally imperiled (G5T2/S1) Preble's meadow jumping mouse (PMJM) (*Zapus hudsonius preblei*), a subspecies designated as Threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act and by the Colorado Division of Wildlife. Because the riparian systems appear contiguous and more expansive than in other areas within PMJM's range, and PMJM have been found at various locations along these systems, this site is considered of high biodiversity significance. Much of the area remains unsurveyed and it is probable that PMJM is more widespread and numerous than documented.

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

An improved boundary for this site would be the 100-year floodplain and an additional 100 meters of adjacent upland habitat. Until these data layers are available for all areas within the site, the current boundary of a 300 meter buffer on the riparian areas should provide for the persistence of the Preble's meadow jumping mouse in this area.

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>
21289	<i>Zapus hudsonius preblei</i>	Meadow Jumping Mouse Subsp	G5T2	S1	No
21289	<i>Zapus hudsonius preblei</i>	Meadow Jumping Mouse Subsp	G5T2	S1	Yes
21289	<i>Zapus hudsonius preblei</i>	Meadow Jumping Mouse Subsp	G5T2	S1	No
21289	<i>Zapus hudsonius preblei</i>	Meadow Jumping Mouse Subsp	G5T2	S1	No
21289	<i>Zapus hudsonius preblei</i>	Meadow Jumping Mouse Subsp	G5T2	S1	No

REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
192692	Doyle, G.A., S.L. Neid and R.J. Rondeau. 2005. Final Report: Survey of Critical Biological Resources, Larimer County, Colorado. Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Fort Collins, CO.

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date 06/16/2004
Version Author Schorr, R.A.

Disclaimer

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