

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Carter Lake Reservoir Hogbacks

Site Code S.USCOHP8*3755

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 296 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>
2528	S.USCOHP*27454	Front Range Foothills-Carter Lake to Boulder

LOCATORS

Nation United States Latitude 401928N
State Colorado Longitude 1051344W

Quad Code Quad Name
40105-C2 Carter Lake Reservoir

County

Watershed Code Watershed Name
10190006 Big Thompson

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	5,670.00 Feet	1,728.00 Meters
Maximum Elevation	6,227.00 Feet	1,898.00 Meters

Site Description

The site occurs on a hogback ridge just west of Carter Lake Reservoir. Several different sandstone formations are exposed on the hogback. In some areas the sandstone forms a "pavement" and vegetation is confined to the cracks in the rock. The elevation at the site ranges from 5,760 feet at the level of Carter Lake Reservoir to 6,227 feet at the highest point on the hogback. The vegetation is characterized by a mosaic of ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) woodlands, mountain mahogany (*Cercocarpus montanus*) shrublands, and small grassland openings. There is evidence of past fire in the area. Residential development has occurred at a rapid pace in the area and houses are built or being built at the northern end. Extensive mining has also taken place, especially to the south where many quarries exist. Numerous picnic grounds and recreational trails (hiking, equestrian, and mountain biking) exist in the general area.

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 11/19/1996
Designer Kettler, S.M.

Boundary Justification

The boundary is intended to protect the occurrences from direct disturbance and provide some buffer. The boundary to the north excludes an area already under residential development. The boundary to the south excludes lands disturbed by quarrying. The lower valley to the west of the site (Chimney Hollow) will be inundated by a Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District (NCWCD) reservoir by 2010.

Primary Area 1,572.42 Acres 636.34 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site supports fair (C-ranked) occurrences of two globally imperiled plant communities. This ponderosa pine/mountain mahogany/big bluestem (*Pinus ponderosa*/*Cercocarpus montanus*/*Andropogon gerardii*) foothills woodland is only known from the northern Front Range of Colorado. Most occurrences have been

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destroyed or degraded by development, overgrazing, or mining. This site has been impacted to some extent by these activities and the occurrence is degraded. The mountain mahogany/New Mexico feathergrass (*Cercocarpus montanus*/*Stipa neomexicana*) foothills shrubland was first documented from this area in 1994. The occurrence at this site is of moderate size but somewhat degraded.

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>
24587	<i>Pinus ponderosa</i> / <i>Cercocarpus montanus</i> / <i>Andropogon gerardii</i> Wooded Herbaceous Vegetation	Foothills Ponderosa Pine Scrub Woodlands	G2	S2?	Yes
40630	<i>Cercocarpus montanus</i> / <i>Hesperostipa</i> <i>neomexicana</i> Shrubland	Foothills Shrubland	G2G3	S2S3	Yes

REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
159789	Bock, C.E., and J.H. Bock. 1988. Grassland birds in southeastern Arizona: impacts of fire, grazing, and alien vegetation. Pages 43-58 in P.D. Goriup, editor. Ecology and conservation of grassland birds. International Council for Bird Preservation Publication 7.
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.
166568	Kettler, S., J. Sanderson, S. Spackman, K. Fayette, C. Pague, D. Clark, and A. Hicks. 1996. Final Report: Significant plant, animal, and wetland resources of Larimer County and their conservation. Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Fort Collins, CO.

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date 11/19/1996

Version Author Kettler, S.M.

Disclaimer

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