

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Cedar Point

Site Code S.USCOHP*10204

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 628 Site Class PCA
Site Alias Frasier Farms River Bend Ranch Surveysite

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 392019N
State Colorado Longitude 1034941W

<u>Quad Code</u>	<u>Quad Name</u>
39103-D7	Barking Dog Spring
39103-C7	River Bend

County

Elbert (CO)

<u>Watershed Code</u>	<u>Watershed Name</u>
10190013	Beaver
10190011	Bijou
11020011	Big Sandy

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	5,360.00	Feet	1,634.00	Meters
Maximum Elevation	5,960.00	Feet	1,817.00	Meters

Site Description

The area is dominated by rolling to dissected prairie with numerous small intermittent drainages. Several of these drainages have been dammed to form stock ponds. Cedar Point, the high point of the landscape in the area, is an outcrop of what appears to be sandstone with some small groves of Rocky Mountain juniper growing in ravines and among the rocks. This is an unusual feature for this part of the High Plains. Part of this high point has been mined. An interesting variety of plant communities occur in the area. Bluegrama-buffalograss prairie occurs at the western edge of the ranch on a ridge. Western wheatgrass-green needlegrass prairie occurs in small swales and may be more extensive in other places at the site. Small salt meadows occur along some streams and are generally dominated by alkali sacaton and saltgrass. Small patches of needle and threadgrass-bluegrama-threadleaf sedge prairie occur in some areas. A little bluestem-sideoats grama community occurs along the rock outcrops in the area. Sandy soils support a community dominated by sand bluestem and prairie sandreed. This community is unusual in that it appears to be similar to a sandhills plant community but doesn't have sandsage or occur on dune type sands.

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 09/23/1997
Designer Kettler, S.M.

Boundary Justification

Much of the land immediately north Big Sandy Creek has been converted to cropland or reseeded and used as hay meadow. Agricultural lands dominate the flatter topography northeast of Cedar Point (this headwaters of the Arikaree River). The vegetation to the north of the site contains much more yucca, probably indicating more heavy grazing. Several of the communities documented at the site may continue to the west but the exact extent and condition of these are unknown. Interstate 70 forms a substantial barrier to many of the

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natural processes and possibly animal migration to and from the southwest. At least one agricultural field is present south of Cedar Point along the county road. The boundaries should protect the plant communities from direct disturbance and invasion of non-native species. Most ecological processes are thought to be either incorporated within the site or could be simulated. Some animal migration may be affected by the agricultural lands to the northeast or the interstate to the southwest. Besides the interstate connectivity to the west and south is with mostly natural vegetation types.

Primary Area 10,034.58 Acres 4,060.87 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site contains a good (B-ranked) occurrence of a plant community which is vulnerable on a global scale.

Other Values Rank No Data

Other Values Comments

Numerous plant communities not all of which were documented.

LAND MANAGEMENT ISSUES

Land Use Comments

Most of the site is a part of a working cattle ranch. The Frasier Farms River Bend Ranch is managed using Holistic Resource Management with intense grazing followed by long periods of rest.

Natural Hazard Comments

No Data

Exotics Comments

No Data

Offsite

Agricultural lands are common to the northeast of Cedar Point. Some land along Big Sandy Creek has been converted to croplands or hay meadows.

Information Needs

No Data

ASSOCIATED ELEMENTS OF BIODIVERSITY

<u>Element</u>			<u>Global Rank</u>	<u>State Rank</u>	<u>Driving Site Rank</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>
24742	<i>Andropogon hallii</i> - <i>Calamovilfa longifolia</i> Herbaceous Vegetation	Northern Sandhill Prairie	G4G5	S2	No
24967	<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i> - <i>Bouteloua curtipendula</i> Western Great Plains Herbaceous Vegetation	Great Plains Mixed Grass Prairies (Sandstone/Gravel Breaks)	G3	S2	No
16738	<i>Spartina pectinata</i> Western Herbaceous Vegetation	Prairie Slough Grass	G3?	S3	No
24725	<i>Juniperus scopulorum</i> / <i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i> Woodland	Scarp Woodlands	G2	S2	Yes

REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
159111	Kettler, S.M. 1997. Colorado Natural Heritage Program Field Survey for the Central Shortgrass Prairie Inventory.

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date 09/23/1997
Version Author Kettler, S.M.

Disclaimer

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