

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Cheyenne Mountain

Site Code S.USCOHP*7865

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 1483 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 384405N
State Colorado Longitude 1045002W

Quad Code Quad Name

38104-F7 Cheyenne Mountain
38104-G7 Colorado Springs

County

El Paso (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name

11020003 Fountain

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	5,695.00 Feet	1,736.00 Meters
Maximum Elevation	9,000.00 Feet	2,743.00 Meters

Site Description

The Cheyenne Mountain Site occupies an area at the ecotone between the prairie grasslands of the Great Plains and the lower montane foothill forests of the Front Range. It encompasses portions of both the prairie and the foothill forest ecosystems and as a result supports a very diverse flora and fauna. It supports one of the best remaining examples of the Front Range foothills mesic oak-shrub ecosystems. The lower elevation portions of the Cheyenne Mountain Site are dominated by prairie grasslands of shortgrass and midgrass species interspersed with scattered islands of Gambel's oak (*Quercus gambelii*) shrubs. In these areas, several black-tailed prairie dog (*Cynomys ludovicianus*) towns are present, and support other species such as Mountain Plover (*Charadrius montanus*) and possibly Burrowing Owl. On higher elevation areas, forests of ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) and Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) dominate steep rocky slopes. A mosaic of mixed woodlands and shrublands of Douglas fir, ponderosa pine, one-seeded juniper (*Juniperus monosperma*), pinyon pine (*Pinus edulis*), Gambel's oak, mountain mahogany (*Cercocarpus montanus*), and skunkbush sumac (*Rhus trilobata*) forms an interface between the prairie and woodland ecosystems.

Key Environmental Factors

No Data

Climate Description

No Data

Land Use History

No Data

Cultural Features

No Data

SITE DESIGN

Site Map Y - Yes Mapped Date 07/02/2001
Designer Stevens, J.E.

Boundary Justification

The boundary encompasses the lower elevation prairie grasslands and extends up toward the top of the Cheyenne Mountain basin to include the higher elevation forests of Douglas-fir and ponderosa pine. On the east, the boundary extends up to Highway 115 to include the shortgrass prairies and associated prairie dog towns. To the north, the boundary extends beyond the border of the State Park up to the areas previously converted to residential development. Though the site contains an occurrence of golden columbine, the site boundary was not drawn for that occurrence. An occurrence of *Asclepias tuberosa* has been included in the site. This species is currently not tracked by the Colorado Natural Heritage Program, but will likely be tracked

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in the future.

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Primary Area 3,794.68 Acres 1,535.66 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B4: Moderate Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site contains a good (B-ranked) occurrence of a globally secure (G5/S4) western wheatgrass-blue grama short grass prairie community (*Pascopyrum smithii*-*Bouteloua gracilis*), and a good (B-ranked) occurrence of an unranked (GU/SU) mesic oak thickets community (*Quercus gambelii*/ *Carex inops* spp. *heliophila*). This site also supports a good (B-ranked) occurrence of an apparently globally secure (G4T1Q/S1) golden columbine subspecies (*Aquilegia chrysantha* var. *rydbergii*). The site was drawn for the plant communities and those elements were used to determine the biodiversity rank. Additionally, the site includes several black-tailed prairie dog towns (*Cynomys ludovicianus*) that support other species such as Mountain Plover (*Charadrius montanus*).

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 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>			
24505	<i>Quercus gambelii</i> / <i>Carex inops</i> Shrubland	Mesic Oak Thickets	GU	SU	Yes
17990	<i>Aquilegia chrysantha</i> var. <i>rydbergii</i>	golden columbine	G4T1Q	S1	Yes
24821	<i>Pascopyrum smithii</i> - <i>Bouteloua gracilis</i> Herbaceous Vegetation	Great Plains Shortgrass Prairie	G5	S4	Yes

REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
162855	Doyle, G.A., J. Gionfriddo, D. Anderson, and D. Culver. 2000. Final Report: Survey of Critical Wetlands and Riparian Areas in El Paso and Pueblo Counties, Colorado. Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Fort Collins, CO.
167490	Stevens, J.E. 2000. Colorado Natural Heritage Program Field Inventory of El Paso County.

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date 07/02/2001
Version Author Stevens, J.E.

Disclaimer

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