

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Chimney Canyon

Site Code S.USCOHP*10198

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 1724 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 405713N
State Colorado Longitude 1032602W

Quad Code Quad Name
40103-H4 Chimney Canyons

County
Logan (CO)

<u>Watershed Code</u>	<u>Watershed Name</u>
10190012	Middle South Platte-Sterling
10190016	Lower Lodgepole
10190017	Sidney Draw

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	4,300.00	Feet	1,311.00	Meters
Maximum Elevation	4,800.00	Feet	1,463.00	Meters

Site Description

The site is characterized by steep cliffs at the north side, the Chalk Bluffs, grading down to relatively flat prairie at the south end. The bluffs are sparsely vegetated. Steep ravines or cuts draining to the south support stands of Rocky Mountain juniper (*Juniperus scopulorum*). The cuts below the juniper stands on less steep slopes are generally dominated by a little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*) - sideoats grama (*Bouteloua curtipendula*) community with skunkbush (*Rhus trilobata*) common even lower where the topography begins to level out and form a sandy wash. The land below this is rolling shortgrass prairie which gets more level as you travel south. The more level areas to the south support the fourwing saltbush (*Atriplex canescens*) community. This community continues for several miles to the south but the exact extent and condition are unknown. Numerous gravel and two track roads exist. Many of these go to oil or gas wells, storage tanks, and/or handling facilities, which are common on 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 09/25/1997
Designer Kettler, S.M.

Boundary Justification

The boundary encompasses the top of the Chalk Bluffs to include the "headwaters" of the ravines that support the little bluestem - sideoats grama community. The fourwing saltbush community is included and is probably supported to some extent by runoff or drainage water from the bluffs. There is also a small patch of shortgrass prairie. This boundary may support some ecological processes, particularly for the little bluestem - sideoats grama and fourwing saltbush communities, but may not be large enough to support a viable example of blue grama - buffalograss shortgrass prairie.

Primary Area	10,195.12	Acres	4,125.84	Hectares
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SITE SIGNIFICANCE

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Biodiversity Significance Rank B4: Moderate Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

Rank is based on a fair (C-ranked) occurrence of a globally vulnerable (G3/S2) Great Plains mixed grass prairie (*Schizachyrium scoparium* - *Bouteloua curtipendula*) and a fair (C-ranked) occurrence of a globally vulnerable (G3/S3) shortgrass prairie (*Atriplex canescens* / *Bouteloua gracilis*). There is also a fair (C-ranked) occurrence of a state rare (G4/S2?) *Bouteloua gracilis* - *Buchloe dactyloides* shortgrass prairie.

Other Values Rank No Data

Other Values Comments

No Data

LAND MANAGEMENT ISSUES

Land Use Comments

The area is owned by a grazing association and used for summer grazing.

Natural Hazard Comments

No Data

Exotics Comments

Non-native species are common around the oil or gas wells, tanks, and handling facilities.

Offsite

Agriculture is the dominant land use on parcels 2-3 miles north and continuing in that direction.

Information Needs

The shortgrass prairie in the area appears to be good habitat for Mountain Plovers. Rare plants known from the other parts of the Chalk Bluffs could occur on the bluffs here and should be surveyed for in late spring or early summer.

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>
24967	<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i> - <i>Bouteloua curtipendula</i> Western Great Plains Herbaceous Vegetation	Great Plains Mixed Grass Prairies (Sandstone/Gravel Breaks)	G3	S2	Yes
24660	<i>Atriplex canescens</i> / <i>Bouteloua gracilis</i> Shrubland	Shortgrass Prairie	G3	S3	Yes
24979	<i>Bouteloua gracilis</i> - <i>Buchloe dactyloides</i> Herbaceous Vegetation	Shortgrass Prairie	G4	S2?	No

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	09/25/1997
Version Author	Kettler, S.M.

Disclaimer

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