

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Comanche Grassland

Site Code S.USCOHP*25491

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 2226 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 372847N
State Colorado Longitude 1025100W

<u>Quad Code</u>	<u>Quad Name</u>
37103-D5	Plum Canyon
37103-D4	Icehouse Canyon
37103-D3	Robbers Roost Canyon
37103-D2	Buck Canyon
37103-D1	Table Mesa
37102-D8	Pritchett NW
37102-D7	Harbord
37102-D6	Springfield West
37102-D5	Springfield East
37102-D4	Vilas North
37102-D3	Walsh
37102-D2	Bartlett
37102-D1	Saunders
37102-F8	Pipe Spring
37102-F7	Floating W Ranch
37102-F6	Hasser Ranch
37102-F5	Two Buttes Reservoir
37102-F4	Two Buttes NW
37102-F3	Plains Community
37102-F2	Webb
37102-F1	Lycan NE
37102-H2	Durkee Creek NW
37102-H1	Durkee Creek NE
37103-A1	Furnish Canyon East
37102-A8	Big Hole Canyon
37102-A7	Tubs Springs
37102-A6	Campo SW
37102-A5	Campo
37102-A4	Moore Draw SW
37102-A3	Moore Draw SE
37102-A2	Midway SW
37102-A1	Midway SE
37103-E1	Walker Canyon
37102-E8	Deora
37102-E7	McEndree Ranch
37102-E6	Big Rock Grange
37102-E5	Horse Creek Springs
37102-E4	Two Buttes
37102-E3	Two Buttes SE
37102-E2	Lycan
37102-E1	Lycan SE

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Name	Comanche Grassland	Site Code	S.USCOHP*25491
37102-G3	North Plum Creek SE		
37102-G2	Two Butte Springs		
37102-G1	Durkee Creek SE		
36102-H8	Kenton		
36102-H7	Kenton NE		
36102-H6	Autograph Cliff NW		
36102-H5	Razor Blade Mesa		
36102-H4	Keyes NW		
36102-H3	Keyes NE		
36102-H2	Sturgis NW		
36102-H1	Sturgis		
37103-C6	Humbar Spring		
37103-C5	Villegreen		
37103-C4	Cherry Canyon		
37103-C3	Kim North		
37103-C2	Andrix		
37103-C1	Utleyville		
37102-C8	Lone Rock		
37102-C7	Pritchett		
37102-C6	Springfield SW		
37102-C5	Bisonte		
37102-C4	Vilas South		
37102-C3	Walsh SE		
37102-C2	Stonington		
37102-C1	Stonington SE		
37103-B6	Miners Peak		
37103-B5	Tobe		
37103-B4	Dalerose Mesa		
37103-B3	Kim South		
37103-B2	Pintada Creek		
37103-B1	Carrizo Mountain		
37102-B8	Reader Lake		
37102-B7	Edler		
37102-B6	Campo NW		
37102-B5	Campo NE		
37102-B4	Moore Draw NW		
37102-B3	Moore Draw NE		
37102-B2	Midway		
37102-B1	Midway NE		

County

Hamilton (KS)
Powers (CO)
Cimarron (OK)
Bent (CO)
Stanton (KS)
Baca (CO)
Las Animas (CO)

<u>Watershed Code</u>	<u>Watershed Name</u>
11040001	Cimarron headwaters
11040002	Upper Cimarron
11040003	North Fork Cimarron

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Name	Comanche Grassland	Site Code	S.USCOHP*25491
11040004	Sand Arroyo		
11040005	Bear		
11020010	Purgatoire		
11020013	Two Butte		
11030001	Middle Arkansas-Lake Mckinney		
11020009	Upper Arkansas-John Martin		

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	3,440.00	Feet	1,048.51	Meters
Maximum Elevation	6,340.00	Feet	1,932.43	Meters

Site Description

The site is approximately 25% agricultural lands, 22% shrublands or mixed shrubs and 46% grasslands or mixed grasses, with trace amounts of pinon - juniper, riparian, open water and residential development. It was drawn to support populations of Mountain Plover, Long-billed Curlew, Ferruginous Hawk, black-tailed prairie dog and swift fox. Other species of biological significance include Burrowing Owl, Lesser Prairie-chicken, McCown's Longspur, Lewis's Woodpecker, Texas horned lizard, New Mexico threadsnake, Colorado green gentian, soapberry and purple cliff-brake.

Key Environmental Factors

The rich diversity of species and plant communities is mostly attributable to the presence of an unfragmented native shortgrass prairie that has experienced minimal disturbance.

Climate Description

The climate is semi-arid with precipitation averaging about 14 inches per year. About half of the yearly precipitation is received during the months of May through August. Winter average minimum temperatures are in the range of 16-20 °F, and summer average maximum temperatures in July and August are near or above 90 °F (HPRCC 2008).

Land Use History

This area of southeastern Colorado has a long history of human habitation with many native tribes having lived in or visited the area. European settlement began in the 1800s. Ranching was the dominant land use up until 1909 when dryland farming homesteaders fenced the land (Friedman 1985). Today activities include both ranching and farming.

Cultural Features

No Data

SITE DESIGN

Site Map	P - Partial	Mapped Date	03/14/2005
Designer	Sovell, J.R.		

Boundary Justification

The site was drawn primarily for Mountain Plover, Long-billed Curlew, Ferruginous Hawk, black-tailed prairie dog, swift fox and Texas horned lizard. The shortgrass prairie of the site also suitable for McCown's Longspurs, which also inhabit the site. The site includes the best native habitat with the highest densities of Long-billed Curlew in the state. Higher densities occur within Comanche National Grassland, with lower densities in agricultural lands (CSP Bird Working Group 2004); however, agricultural lands were included because they are important for foraging (Busby 2005). The western boundary ends at Chacuaco Canyon and Mesa de Maya which act as sufficient barriers to the dispersal of swift fox. There is an area of open landscape between the canyon and mesa along Highway 160 that may allow for some movement of swift fox between this site and the Southern Purgatoire site to the west. Movement of fox between these two sites, however, is probably infrequent. Boundary was drawn using Landsat ETM+ satellite imagery and 25m Colorado Vegetation Classification data (CDOW).

Primary Area	2,033,647.69	Acres	822,991.29	Hectares
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SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank	B3: High Biodiversity Significance
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Biodiversity Significance Comments

The site supports extant and poor (D-ranked) occurrences of the globally imperiled (G2/S2B) Mountain Plover (*Charadrius montanus*), extant and fair (C-ranked) occurrences of the state vulnerable (G4/S3B) Ferruginous Hawk (*Buteo regalis*), numerous extant occurrences of the globally vulnerable (G3/S3) swift fox

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17214	<i>Numenius americanus</i>	Long-billed Curlew	G5	S2B No
17214	<i>Numenius americanus</i>	Long-billed Curlew	G5	S2B No
17214	<i>Numenius americanus</i>	Long-billed Curlew	G5	S2B No
17214	<i>Numenius americanus</i>	Long-billed Curlew	G5	S2B No
17214	<i>Numenius americanus</i>	Long-billed Curlew	G5	S2B No
17214	<i>Numenius americanus</i>	Long-billed Curlew	G5	S2B No
17214	<i>Numenius americanus</i>	Long-billed Curlew	G5	S2B No
17214	<i>Numenius americanus</i>	Long-billed Curlew	G5	S2B No
17214	<i>Numenius americanus</i>	Long-billed Curlew	G5	S2B No
17214	<i>Numenius americanus</i>	Long-billed Curlew	G5	S2B No
17214	<i>Numenius americanus</i>	Long-billed Curlew	G5	S2B No
17796	<i>Cynomys ludovicianus</i>	Black-tailed Prairie Dog	G4	S3 No
17796	<i>Cynomys ludovicianus</i>	Black-tailed Prairie Dog	G4	S3 No
18609	<i>Charadrius montanus</i>	Mountain Plover	G2	S2B No
18609	<i>Charadrius montanus</i>	Mountain Plover	G2	S2B No
18609	<i>Charadrius montanus</i>	Mountain Plover	G2	S2B No
18609	<i>Charadrius montanus</i>	Mountain Plover	G2	S2B No
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18609	<i>Charadrius montanus</i>	Mountain Plover	G2	S2B Yes
18609	<i>Charadrius montanus</i>	Mountain Plover	G2	S2B Yes
18609	<i>Charadrius montanus</i>	Mountain Plover	G2	S2B Yes
18461	<i>Calcarius mccownii</i>	McCown's Longspur	G4	S2B No
18461	<i>Calcarius mccownii</i>	McCown's Longspur	G4	S2B No
18461	<i>Calcarius mccownii</i>	McCown's Longspur	G4	S2B No
18461	<i>Calcarius mccownii</i>	McCown's Longspur	G4	S2B No
18461	<i>Calcarius mccownii</i>	McCown's Longspur	G4	S2B No
19973	<i>Buteo regalis</i>	Ferruginous Hawk	G4	S3B,S4N No
19973	<i>Buteo regalis</i>	Ferruginous Hawk	G4	S3B,S4N No
19973	<i>Buteo regalis</i>	Ferruginous Hawk	G4	S3B,S4N No
19973	<i>Buteo regalis</i>	Ferruginous Hawk	G4	S3B,S4N No

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Name	Comanche Grassland	Site Code	S.USCOHP*25491
22686	<i>Phrynosoma cornutum</i>	Texas Horned Lizard	G4G5 S3 No
22686	<i>Phrynosoma cornutum</i>	Texas Horned Lizard	G4G5 S3 No

REFERENCES

Reference ID	Full Citation
192785	Busby, William. 2005. Personal communication to John Sovell regarding Long-billed Curlews. Kansas Natural Heritage Inventory, Lawrence, KS.
192546	Central Shortgrass Prairie Bird Working Group. 2004. Meeting held on July 29, 2004 at CSU. Participants included personnel from CNHP, Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, Colorado Division of Wildlife and Playa Lakes Joint Venture.
193570	Colorado Division of Wildlife. 2001-2003. Basinwide Vegetation Classification. Online at http://www.ndis.nrel.colostate.edu .
195120	Friedman, Paul D. 1985. Final Report of History and Oral History Studies of the Fort Carson Pinon Canyon Maneuver Area, Las Animas, Colorado. USDI. National Park Service, Interagency Archaeological Services Branch, Rocky Mountain Regional Office, Denver, CO.
195121	HPRCC. 2008. High Plains Regional Climate Center Web Page. Based on data from automated weather stations operated by Colorado for southeastern Colorado area. High Plains Regional Climate Center Web Page: < http://www.hprcc.unl.edu >

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date	04/17/2008
Version Author	Sovell, J.R.

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