

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Cramer Creek

Site Code S.USCOHP*7832

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 1497 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 383412N
State Colorado Longitude 1035501W

Quad Code Quad Name
38103-E8 Cockleburr Springs

County
Lincoln (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name
11020008 Horse

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	5,000.00	Feet	1,524.00	Meters
Maximum Elevation	5,100.00	Feet	1,554.48	Meters

Site Description

The Cramer Creek Potential Conservation Area is located east of Pueblo and north of Ordway. Cramer Creek is a perennial stream that is fed by numerous springs as it flows south to the Arkansas River. Within the site there are several ponds that support emergent vegetation, amphibians, reptiles, and small fish. The northern leopard frog (*Rana pipiens*) was found throughout the area. The presence of the northern leopard frog is an indicator of a constant water source and the absence of non-native species e.g., the bullfrog (*Rana catesbeiana*). Additionally, a very large population (150- 200) of painted turtles (*Chrysemys picta*) was documented in the ponds. The vegetation consists of bulrushes (*Scirpus acutus*, *S. pungens*), cattails (*Typha latifolia*) and spike rush (*Eleocharis palustris*) along the pond edges with saltgrass (*Distichlis spicata*), alkali grass (*Puccinellia airoides*), alkali sacaton (*Sporobolus airoides*), cluster field sedge (*Carex praegracilis*), Nebraska sedge (*Carex nebrascensis*), water parsnip (*Berula erecta*), and Baltic rush (*Juncus balticus*) in the mesic meadow that rings the ponds. Non-native plants documented include Canada thistle (*Breea arvensis*), teasel (*Dipsacus fullonum*), and kochia (*Bassia sieversiana*). The gleyed soils next to the pond indicate saturated conditions that are consistent throughout the growing season. Above the ponds the soils are mottled indicating periods of saturation then drawdown likely occurring in late summer.

Key Environmental Factors

No Data

Climate Description

The climate of the eastern plains is comparatively uniform from place to place, with characteristic features of low relative humidity, abundant sunshine, light rainfall, moderate to high wind movement, and a large daily range in temperature. Summer daily maximum temperatures are often 95° F or above, and 100° F temperatures have been observed at all plain stations. Such temperatures are not infrequent at altitudes below 5,000 feet; above that elevation they are comparatively rare. The usual winter extremes in the plains are from zero to 10° F or 15° F below zero (WRCC).

Land Use History

No Data

Cultural Features

No Data

SITE DESIGN

Site Map Y - Yes Mapped Date 10/01/2009

Designer Culver, D.R.

Boundary Justification

Boundary is drawn to encompass the immediate watershed of Cramer Creek. The boundary provides a small

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buffer (500 ft) to protect the element from direct impacts.

Primary Area 414.25 Acres 167.64 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B5: General Biodiversity Interest

Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site supports a state rare (G5/S3) amphibian, northern leopard frog (*Rana pipiens*). The globally common painted turtle (*Chrysemys picta*) also occurs within the site, but this species is not tracked by CNHP.

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

Canada thistle, teasel, and kochia are documented within site.

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>
18389	<i>Rana pipiens</i>	Northern Leopard Frog	G5	S3	Yes

REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
198398	Culver, D.R. 2009. CNHP Final Report: Critical Biological Resources for Cramer Creek, Lincoln and Crowley Counties, CO. Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Fort Collins, CO.
198320	Western Regional Climate Center. 2009. Record Climate Summaries. Accessed in 2009. http://www.wrcc.dri.edu/

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

Original site design by Spackman, S.C. 1997-03-25

VERSION

Version Date 10/01/2009

Version Author Culver, D.R.

Disclaimer

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