

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Eagles Nest

Site Code S.USCOHP*25364

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 2197 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 404625N
State Colorado Longitude 1051344W

Quad Code Quad Name
40105-G2 Livermore

County

Watershed Code Watershed Name
10190007 Cache La Poudre

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	5,700.00 Feet	1,737.36 Meters
Maximum Elevation	6,300.00 Feet	1,920.24 Meters

Site Description

The Eagles Nest site is located within the Laramie foothills in Larimer County, Colorado. The area is located within the North Fork of the Poudre River watershed. Steep, rocky outcrops are located on the western portion. A Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) and two Prairie Falcons (*Falco mexicanus*) were observed utilizing these outcrops. The Colorado Division of Wildlife has documented a Golden Eagle nest, estimated at least 100 years old, within the crags estimated at least 100 years old. The vegetated portions of the outcrops are dominated by ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*), Rocky Mountain juniper (*Juniperus scopulorum*) and Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) with mountain mahogany (*Cercocarpus montanus*), waxflower (*Jamesia americana*), and bluebunch wheatgrass (*Pseudoroegneria spicata*). The outcrops are potential habitat for the globally rare Larimer aletes (*Aletes humilis*) and the state rare Rocky Mountain cinquefoil (*Potentilla rupicola*); however, searches for these rare plants in 2001 and 2004 were negative. The foothills below the outcrops are dominated by mountain mahogany. The herbaceous understory was once dominated by needle-and-thread grass (*Stipa comata*), but has now been invaded by cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*). The gulleys or drainages throughout the area support stands of skunkbrush (*Rhus trilobata*) with rabbitbrush (*Chrysothamnus nauseosus*) and chokecherry (*Prunus virginiana*). These drainages experienced a flash flood on August 10, 2001. Large debris and sediment deposits were observed during the evaluation. The foothills are interspersed with 'fingers' of grasslands that are dominated by needle-and-thread grass (*Stipa comata*) with blue grama (*Bouteloua gracilis*). These areas did not have a high cover of weeds (cover was typically less than 20% on the average). The valley floor or grassland is dominated by cheatgrass (up to 100% cover in places) with western wheatgrass (*Pascopyrum smithii*). The following forbs (1-10% cover) were also documented: snakeweed (*Gutierrezia sarothrae*), fringed sage (*Artemisia frigida*), beeplant (*Cleome serrulata*), native thistle (*Cirsium canescens*), blazing star (*Nuttalia multiflora*), buckwheat (*Eriogonum effusum*), scurf pea (*Psoralidium tenuiflorum*), dalea (*Dalea purpurea*), prickly pear cactus (*Opuntia polyacantha*), ball cactus (*Pediocactus simpsonii*), and wild tarragon (*Oligosporus dracunculus*). The North Fork of the Poudre River has remnant stands of narrowleaf and plains cottonwood (*Populus angustifolia* and *Populus deltoides* ssp. *monilifera*) with peachleaf willow (*Salix amygdaloides*) and sandbar willow (*Salix exigua*). The hydrology has been altered by the operation of Halligan Reservoir located upstream. Additionally, there has been grazing pressure on the riparian area for the past 100 years that has resulted in low cover of woody vegetation and bank destabilization. Intermittent tributaries to the North Fork of the Poudre support globally rare riparian plant communities.

Key Environmental Factors

No Data

Climate Description

No Data

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Land Use History

No Data

Cultural Features

No Data

SITE DESIGN

Site Map Y - Yes

Mapped Date 03/03/2005

Designer Culver, D.R.

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the element occurrences and a buffer to protect from direct disturbance.

Primary Area 648.20 Acres

262.32 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

The Eagles Nest site supports good to fair (BC-ranked) occurrence of a globally imperiled (G2/S2) skunkbrush riparian shrubland (*Rhus trilobata*). As of 2004, this is the only documented occurrence of this riparian shrubland on Colorado's Front Range. The site also supports a very small, fair (C-ranked) occurrence of a globally imperiled (G2/S2) narrowleaf cottonwood riparian forest (*Populus angustifolia*/*Salix irrorata*).

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</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>
16839	<i>Rhus trilobata</i> Shrubland	Skunkbrush Riparian Shrubland	G2	S2	Yes
24827	<i>Populus angustifolia</i> / <i>Salix irrorata</i> Woodland	Foothills Riparian Woodland	G2	S2	Yes

REFERENCES

Reference ID

Full Citation

192692

Doyle, G.A., S.L. Neid and R.J. Rondeau. 2005. Final Report: Survey of Critical Biological Resources, Larimer County, Colorado. Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Fort Collins, CO.

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date 03/03/2005

Version Author Culver, D.R.

Disclaimer

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