

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Goodpasture

Site Code S.USCOHP*23997

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 1794 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 380626N
State Colorado Longitude 1045501W

Quad Code Quad Name

38104-A8 Beulah
38104-B8 Owl Canyon

County

Pueblo (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name

11020002 Upper Arkansas

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	5,850.00 Feet	1,783.00 Meters
Maximum Elevation	6,275.00 Feet	1,913.00 Meters

Site Description

The Goodpasture site is located in west-central Pueblo County and lies completely on private ranchland. The site was drawn to include a large, reproducing and healthy black-tailed prairie dog complex that occupies low lying shortgrass prairie. The site varies in elevation from around 5,850 feet at the east boundary, and gradually rises to 6,275 feet to its west edge. The site consists of rolling terrain with a 65% cover of grasses dominated by blue gramma (*Bouteloua gracilis*), with some purple three-awn (*Aristida purpurea*). The soil is a rich loam, well drained and has a deep organic layer. The site is situated between two distinctly different landscapes. To the east lie Galbeth Creek and Wales Canyon, which run through the site from east to west and become steep outside the east edge of the site where the terrain is unsuitable for prairie dogs; to the west and north the site is restricted by juniper woodlands that are also unsuitable to prairie dogs. Cattle grazing occurring throughout the site has reduced the cover density and biomass of blue gramma. This modification of the rangeland appears not to have affected the prairie dogs, which generally occur in association with grazing cattle (Licht and Sanchez 1993).

Key Environmental Factors

No Data

Climate Description

No Data

Land Use History

The site and surrounding area has traditional seen use as grazed ranchland.

Cultural Features

No Data

SITE DESIGN

Site Map Y - Yes Mapped Date 12/10/2002
Designer Sovell, J.R.

Boundary Justification

The site boundary includes the entire extent of the black-tailed prairie dog complex including the suitable grasslands interspersed among the separate colonies that form the complex. The boundary is intended to represent the area needed to protect the prairie dog population and allow for suitable areas into which the population can expand.

Primary Area 1,562.42 Acres 632.29 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B5: General Biodiversity Interest

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Biodiversity Significance Comments

The site contains an excellent (A-ranked) occurrence of the globally secure (G4/S4) black-tailed prairie dog (*Cynomys ludovicianus*).

Other Values Rank No Data

Other Values Comments

No Data

LAND MANAGEMENT ISSUES

Land Use Comments

[Sovell 2003:] The site and surrounding area have probably been grazed since at least beginning of the 1900s.

Natural Hazard Comments

No Data

Exotics Comments

No Data

Offsite

No Data

Information Needs

[Sovell 2003:] Research to identify whether this population of prairie dogs has been exposed to plague would assist in understanding the conservation value of this population of prairie dogs. Although there had been a plague epizootic peaking in 2000 that caused massive die-offs in many prairie dog complexes in Pueblo County this particular complex appears unaffected by the epizootic. The distant location of this complex from other active prairie dog populations may protect it from outbreaks of plague and it may offer a unique opportunity for conserving a native prairie dog population free of plague. To verify this would require collecting blood samples from the population and testing for the presence of plague antibodies.

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>
17796	<i>Cynomys ludovicianus</i>	Black-tailed Prairie Dog	G4	S3	Yes

REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
167969	Kotliar, N.B., B.W. Baker, A.D. Whicker, G. Plumb. 1999. A critical review of assumptions about the prairie dog as a keystone species. Environmental Management 24:177-192.
170688	Licht, D. S., and K. D. Sanchez. 1993. Association of black-tailed prairie dog colonies with cattle point attractants in the northern Great Plains. Great Basin Nat. 53:385-389.

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date	09/16/2003
Version Author	Spackman, S.C.

Disclaimer

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