

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Green Ridge

Site Code S.USCOHP*25358

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 2191 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 402332N
State Colorado Longitude 1051912W

Quad Code Quad Name

40105-E3	Buckhorn Mountain
40105-C3	Pinewood Lake
40105-D4	Glen Haven
40105-D3	Drake
40105-D2	Masonville
40105-C2	Carter Lake Reservoir
40105-C4	Panorama Peak
40105-E2	Horsetooth Reservoir

County

Watershed Code Watershed Name

10190006 Big Thompson

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	5,400.00	Feet	1,645.92	Meters
Maximum Elevation	9,550.00	Feet	2,910.84	Meters

Site Description

This site occupies the transition zone between foothills and montane regions; it is just west of the westernmost sandstone hogbacks that span the Front Range. The granitic mountains that comprise the site are blanketed by Ponderosa Pine Woodland system, the most common matrix-forming type of the foothills and montane elevations (6,000-9,000 feet) on the Front Range. This site spans 5,400-9,550 feet on predominantly east-facing slopes. Ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) dominates the canopy throughout, although Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) can co-dominate on north-facing slopes. Understory vegetation varies across the site but includes shrub patches of various sizes and/or carpets of graminoids as well as sparse understory with thick needle duff. At lower elevations on the east- and south-facing slopes, the woodland system grades into the Ponderosa Pine Savanna, a mosaic of shrubs, grasses, and scattered trees. The valleys below are occupied by remnants of Foothill Grassland systems, the majority of which has been converted to agricultural land use or has been degraded by grazing. A portion of the site was impacted by the Bobcat Gulch fire of 2000. This fire consumed 10,600 acres and proved to be a catastrophic natural disturbance. Most of the trees in the impacted area were killed by the severe crown fire, even in usually protected steep drainages and north-facing slopes. Further, much of the understory was consumed, lost to erosion following denudation, or suppressed by emergence of early successional weeds (e.g. mullein, *Verbascum thapsus*) or plants from post-fire seeding measures (primarily slender wheatgrass, *Elymus trachycaulus* among others). Only small vestiges of what was likely present before the fire are currently recognizable; only small vestiges of pre-fire vegetation remain in the impacted area.

Key Environmental Factors

The site is comprised of fire-dependent ecological systems. A portion of the site was severely impacted by a catastrophic crown fire in 2000 in the area around Bobcat Gulch.

Climate Description

No Data

Land Use History

No Data

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Green Ridge

Site Code S.USCOHP*25358

Cultural Features

No Data

SITE DESIGN

Site Map Y - Yes

Mapped Date 01/26/2005

Designer Neid, S.L.

Boundary Justification

This site boundary comprises a portion of lower elevation ponderosa pine woodland and savanna that is minimally fragmented by roads and achieves twice the minimum size for the ecological system to be viable (Rondeau et al. 2001). Portions of Roosevelt National Forest that have several inholdings are included in this site. The site is bisected by Highway 34 west of Loveland where it goes through the Big Thompson Canyon. As the canyon is very deep and steep-sided, direct impacts of this road to the Ponderosa pine system are minimal. The canyon does form a natural fire break, however, the site was drawn to include the same ecological elements found on both sides of the canyon.

Primary Area 68,471.28 Acres

27,709.45 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B2: Very High Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site includes three occurrences of the globally imperiled (G2) ponderosa pine/mountain mahogany/big bluestem (*Pinus ponderosa*/*Cercocarpus montanus*/*Andropogon gerardii*) savanna. One is a good (B-ranked) occurrence and the other two are fair (C-ranked) due to their closer proximity to municipal areas. The latter occurrence was impacted by the Bobcat Gulch fire in 2000. The site also supports two occurrences, one good and one fair, of the globally vulnerable (G3) ponderosa pine/spike fescue (*Pinus ponderosa*/*Leucopoa kingii*) woodland. The ponderosa pine/mountain mahogany/big bluestem (*Pinus ponderosa*/*Cercocarpus montanus*/*Andropogon gerardii*) sparse woodland plant association is known only from the Front Range north of Boulder and it occurs at the tension zone between forests on higher slopes and grasslands in valley bottoms and combines elements of each. Unique in this association is the presence of big bluestem, a species that abundantly occurs in the tallgrass prairie of the Plains states to the east, but is much less common in the Foothills. Ponderosa pine/spike fescue Woodland is considered an indicator of late successional forest stands.

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

Element State ID	State Scientific Name	State Common Name	Global Rank	State Rank	Driving Site Rank
24587	<i>Pinus ponderosa</i> / <i>Cercocarpus montanus</i> / <i>Andropogon gerardii</i> Wooded Herbaceous Vegetation	Foothills Ponderosa Pine Scrub Woodlands	G2	S2?	No
24756	<i>Pinus ponderosa</i> / <i>Leucopoa kingii</i> Woodland	Foothills Ponderosa Pine Savannas	G3	S3	No
24587	<i>Pinus ponderosa</i> / <i>Cercocarpus montanus</i> / <i>Andropogon gerardii</i> Wooded Herbaceous Vegetation	Foothills Ponderosa Pine Scrub Woodlands	G2	S2?	Yes

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name	Green Ridge	Site Code	S.USCOHP*25358
24587	<i>Pinus ponderosa</i> / <i>Cercocarpus montanus</i> / <i>Andropogon gerardii</i> Wooded Herbaceous Vegetation	Foothills Ponderosa Pine Scrub Woodlands	G2 S2? No
24756	<i>Pinus ponderosa</i> / <i>Leucopoa kingii</i> Woodland	Foothills Ponderosa Pine Savannas	G3 S3 No

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.
190863	Rondeau, R. 2001. Ecological system viability specifications for Southern Rocky Mountain ecoregion. First Edition. Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO. 181 pp.

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date	01/26/2005
Version Author	Neid, S.L.

Disclaimer

These data are a product and property of Colorado State University, Colorado Natural Heritage Program (CNHP). These data are strictly "on loan" and should be considered "works in progress". Data maintained in the Colorado Natural Heritage Program database are an integral part of ongoing research at CSU and reflect the observations of many scientists, institutions and our current state of knowledge. These data are acquired from various sources, with varying levels of accuracy, and are continually being updated and revised. Many areas have never been surveyed and the absence of data in any particular geographic area does not necessarily mean that species or ecological communities of concern are not present. These data should not be regarded as a substitute for on-site surveys required for environmental assessments. Absence of evidence is NOT evidence of absence. Absence of any data does not mean that other resources of special concern do not occur, but rather CNHP files do not currently contain information to document this presence. CNHP is not responsible for whether other, non-CNHP data providers have secured landowner permission for data collected.

These data are provided for non-commercial purposes only. Under no circumstances are data to be distributed in any fashion to outside parties. To ensure accurate application of data, tabular and narrative components must be evaluated in conjunction with spatial components. Failure to do so constitutes a misuse of the data. The Colorado Natural Heritage Program shall have no liability or responsibility to the data users, or any other person or entity with respect to liability, loss, or damage caused or alleged to be caused directly or indirectly by the data, including but not limited to any interruption of service, loss of business, anticipatory profits or indirect, special, or consequential damages resulting from the use of operation of the data. Data users hereby agree to hold CNHP, Colorado State University, and the State of Colorado harmless from any claim, demand, cause of action, loss, damage or expense from or related to data users use of or reliance on the data, regardless of the cause or nature thereof, and even in the event that such cause is attributable to the negligence or misconduct of CNHP.

These data are provided on an as-is basis, as-available basis without warranties of any kind, expressed or implied, INCLUDING (BUT NOT LIMITED TO) WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY, FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE, AND NON-INFRINGEMENT. Although CNHP maintains high standards of data quality control, CNHP, Colorado State University, and the State of Colorado further expressly disclaim any warranty that the data are error-free or current as of the date supplied