

# Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Greenland Ranch

Site Code S.USCOFO\*5

## IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 1061 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 391214N  
State Colorado Longitude 1044955W

### Quad Code Quad Name

39104-B7 Greenland

### County

Douglas (CO)

### Watershed Code Watershed Name

10190003 Middle South Platte-Cherry Creek  
10190002 Upper South Platte

## SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation - Feet - Meters  
Maximum Elevation - Feet - Meters

### Site Description

The Greenland Ranch site is located in southern Douglas County and is characterized by rolling grasslands and isolated, steep sided buttes. The grasslands appear to have been utilized as rangeland for cattle for many years and show various levels of impact. Patches of tallgrass species have been viewed from county roads and may be remnants of plant communities that were more common historically but are now more rare. The buttes are steep sided and generally vegetated with Gambel's oak (*Quercus gambelii*) occasionally with ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) and mountain mahogany (*Cercocarpus montanus*). Patches of Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) and some aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) are present on north facing slopes near ravines. Timber was harvested from the area approximately 50-75 years ago (Baker 1984 - memo to TNC). The tops of several prominent buttes are dominated by grasslands, including significant examples of rare types. The edges of the buttes often have extensive cliffs, of which several are current and historic breeding sites for prairie falcons and golden eagles.

### Key Environmental Factors

No Data

### Climate Description

No Data

### Land Use History

No Data

### Cultural Features

No Data

## SITE DESIGN

Site Map Y - Yes Mapped Date 02/20/1996

Designer Kettler, S.M.

### Boundary Justification

The boundary presented here is intended to encompass the element occurrences and a buffer to prevent direct disturbance. The boundary includes the slopes and tops of Corner Mountain, Nemrick Butte, and Rattlesnake Butte and the grassland between the buttes. Plant communities that occur within the context of natural surrounding lands are generally thought to be more viable and provide greater chance of continued natural processes and protection of associated species (Harris 1984).

Primary Area 1,632.03 Acres 660.46 Hectares

## SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B4: Moderate Biodiversity Significance

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## Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site contains a poor occurrence of a plant community which is vulnerable on a global scale (G3/S3). Significant elements of natural diversity are found on slopes and tops of the buttes. Wetlands in the area have been somewhat impacted by livestock grazing but still contain natural vegetation. Field verification was not performed because of lack of access to private property. The Parry's oatgrass (*Danthonia parryi*) grassland is documented mainly from the Front Range of Colorado from Las Animas County, north to Larimer County. This community generally occurs in small patches from 7000-9500 feet in elevation. Currently there are fewer than 20 known occurrences of this community. The mountain muhly-Parry's oatgrass (*Muhlenbergia montana*-*Danthonia parryi*) grassland is thought to be uncommon to common throughout its range. Good condition occurrences are rare in Colorado. The status of the Gambel's oak-mountain mahogany/mountain muhly (*Quercus gambelii*-*Cercocarpus montanus*/*Muhlenbergia montana*) shrublands is unknown at this time.

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 State ID</u>	<u>State Scientific Name</u>	<u>State Common Name</u>	<u>Global Rank</u>	<u>State Rank</u>	<u>Driving Site Rank</u>
19228	<i>Danthonia parryi</i> Herbaceous Vegetation	Montane Grasslands	G3	S3	No
24682	<i>Muhlenbergia montana</i> Herbaceous Vegetation	Mountain Muhly Herbaceous Vegetation	G3G4	S2?	Yes
24685	<i>Quercus gambelii</i> - <i>Cercocarpus montanus</i> / ( <i>Carex geyeri</i> ) Shrubland	Mixed Mountain Shrublands	G3	S3	No

## REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
160788	Harris, L. D. 1984. The fragmented forest: island biogeography theory and the preservation of biotic diversity. Univ. Chicago Press. xviii + 212 pp.

## ADDITIONAL TOPICS

### Additional Topics

No Data

## VERSION

<b>Version Date</b>	02/20/1996
<b>Version Author</b>	Kettler, S.M.

## Disclaimer

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