

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Horse Creek Basin at Nero Hill

Site Code S.USCOHP*10210

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 863 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 381858N
State Colorado Longitude 1034428W

Quad Code Quad Name

38103-C6 Lake Henry
38103-C7 Nero Hill

County

Crowley (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name

11020005 Upper Arkansas-Lake Meredith
11020008 Horse

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation 4,400.00 Feet 1,341.00 Meters
Maximum Elevation 4,550.00 Feet 1,387.00 Meters

Site Description

The site is characterized by rolling hills and gentle slopes which drain into numerous, mostly ephemeral streams and swales. Numerous stock ponds have been excavated along many of the streams and several playas exist within the site. The vegetation is dominated by alkaline meadows and shortgrass prairie on the higher divides between the drainages. Soils are generally fine textured and alkaline to some extent.

Key Environmental Factors

No Data

Climate Description

No Data

Land Use History

No Data

Cultural Features

No Data

SITE DESIGN

Site Map P - Partial Mapped Date 08/13/1997
Designer Kettler, S.M.

Boundary Justification

The boundary encompasses the alkaline meadows and parts of the adjacent slopes observed in the area. The community appears to be widespread in the general area from Ordway north nearly to Punkin Center. The area to the south contains irrigation canals and reservoirs and should be excluded from the site. Only a roadside survey was completed. Further inventory may expand the occurrence boundaries of the community and may warrant updating of the site boundaries. Hydrologic influences may be important for the community but are not well understood.

Primary Area 13,401.23 Acres 5,423.31 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B4: Moderate Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site contains a good (B-ranked) occurrence of a globally vulnerable (G3Q/S3) *Sporobolus airoides* Great Plains salt meadow. Rank has been lowered to due the questionable taxonomy of the element.

Other Values Rank No Data

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Other Values Comments

No Data

LAND MANAGEMENT ISSUES

Land Use Comments

The land is currently used for livestock grazing. Irrigation diversions and reservoirs to the south have affected water tables in the area probably altering the natural distribution of the alkaline meadows off site to the south.

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>
19429	<i>Sporobolus airoides</i> Southern Plains Herbaceous Vegetation	Great Plains Salt Meadows	G3Q	S3	Yes

REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
159111	Kettler, S.M. 1997. Colorado Natural Heritage Program Field Survey for the Central Shortgrass Prairie Inventory.

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date 08/13/1997

Version Author Kettler, S.M.

Disclaimer

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