

# Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Horsefly

Site Code S.USCOHP\*25631

## IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 2233 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 381020N  
State Colorado Longitude 1075920W

### Quad Code Quad Name

38108-B1 Hotchkiss Reservoir  
38107-B8 Horsefly Peak

### County

San Miguel (CO)  
Montrose (CO)

### Watershed Code Watershed Name

14030003 San Miguel

## SITE DESCRIPTION

<b>Minimum Elevation</b>	8,700.00	<b>Feet</b>	2,651.76	<b>Meters</b>
<b>Maximum Elevation</b>	9,200.00	<b>Feet</b>	2,804.16	<b>Meters</b>

### Site Description

The Horsefly site is located on a bench at the southern end of the Uncompahgre Plateau. It is situated within one of the largest areas of private land in the San Miguel Basin. Historically a ranching area, large tracts are now being developed for home sites. The area boasts magnificent long views of distant mountains and open meadows punctuated by aspen groves, making it extremely attractive to potential homeowners. Vegetation comprises a mosaic of aspen forests with large open parks of silver sagebrush, grasses and forbs. At higher elevations, Ponderosa pine and Gambel's oak become more frequent. The high elevation silver sagebrush community in this site is quite unusual in Colorado. It is known from only a few other locations, in Mesa, Grand and Summit counties. In its pristine state, this plant association would consist of silver sagebrush and Thurber fescue or Parry's oatgrass. A century of grazing has significantly altered its composition, so that shrubs have increased relative to grasses, and many of the native grasses have been displaced by exotic species such as Kentucky bluegrass. However, there are still enough remaining native grasses to indicate the potential natural community. In one representative plot, canopy cover was estimated at 75% silver sage, 5% rubber rabbitbrush, and 30% grasses and forbs, which included Thurber fescue, Parry's oatgrass, Kentucky bluegrass and hairy golden aster. Other notable plant species in the area include snowberry, mules ears, mountain sagebrush, owl clover, and lupines. No rare plants were found in this habitat.

### 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 02/07/2000  
Designer Lyon, M.J.

### Boundary Justification

The boundary is drawn to encompass the silver sagebrush shrubland community.

Primary Area 1,613.57 Acres 652.99 Hectares

## SITE SIGNIFICANCE

# Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Horsefly

Site Code S.USCOHP\*25631

Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

## Biodiversity Significance Comments

The western slope sagebrush shrublands are dominated by silver sagebrush constitute, a plant community that is considered imperiled to vulnerable throughout its range (G2G3/S2S3). This site supports a fair (C-ranked) occurrence of this community.

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 Rank</u>	<u>State Rank</u>	<u>Driving Site Rank</u>
<u>State ID</u>	<u>State Scientific Name</u>	<u>State Common Name</u>			
24930	<i>Artemisia cana</i> ssp. <i>viscidula</i> / <i>Festuca thurberi</i> Shrubland	Western Slope Sagebrush Shrublands	G2G3	S2S3	Yes

### REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
192792	Lyon, P. and J. Sovell. 2000. Final Report: A Natural Heritage Assessment, San Miguel and Western Montrose Counties, Colorado. Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Fort Collins, CO.

### ADDITIONAL TOPICS

## Additional Topics

No Data

### VERSION

Version Date 02/07/2000

Version Author Lyon, M.J.

### Disclaimer

# Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Horsefly

Site Code S.USCOHP\*25631

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