

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Marksheffel Road

Site Code S.USCOHP*22220

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 563 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 384753N
State Colorado Longitude 1043911W

Quad Code Quad Name

38104-G6 Elsmere

County

El Paso (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name

11020003 Fountain

SITE DESCRIPTION

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

Site Description

The Marksheffel Road site is located to the east of Marksheffel Road, where it extends southward from an area about one mile south of Colorado Highway 94 to a location about 0.4 miles north of Bradley Road. Jimmy Camp Creek, an intermittent stream that lies in a broad, shallow basin, flows southward inside the eastern boundary of the site. The Marksheffel Road site is characterized by a mixture of open, flat areas and gently-rolling terrain. The site is covered by a mosaic of soil types (U.S.D.A. Soil Conservation Service and Colorado Agricultural Experiment Station 1981). The location of the largest prairie dog colony at the Marksheffel Road site (located at the south end of the site) is characterized by Ascalon sandy loam, a deep, well-drained soil with a surface layer that is medium in organic content and a substratum that is calcareous. Ascalon sandy loam is moderate in permeability and available water capacity, and has slow surface runoff. Hazards of erosion and soil blowing are therefore moderate. The effective rooting depth of plants on this soil exceeds 60 inches (150 centimeters) (U.S.D.A. Soil Conservation Service and Colorado Agricultural Experiment Station 1981). Historically, much of the site was covered with vegetation typical of the native shortgrass prairie. Large areas of this vegetation remain, especially on the northern 80% of the site. Other areas, especially on the southern 20% of the site, were converted to agricultural croplands during the past 100 years. The cultivation of some of these fields was subsequently abandoned, producing "old-field" (weedy, early-successional) habitats. Grazing of domestic livestock occurred historically on most or all of the site, and today it continues on most portions.

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 04/25/2001

Designer Gionfriddo, J.P.

Boundary Justification

The boundary encompasses the three known prairie dog colonies and the (mostly) unoccupied space among these colonies. Scattered within the unoccupied areas are several small clusters of occupied prairie dog mounds. The site is bounded on the west by Marksheffel Road. Although the road does not constitute a physical barrier to the dispersal of prairie dogs, it lies along a ridge that may discourage or reduce

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Marksheffel Road

Site Code S.USCOHP*22220

movements of prairie dogs. Land immediately adjacent to Marksheffel Road (at least along much of the northern portion of the road that lies within this site) is unsuitable for use by prairie dogs because it is too steeply sloped. The northern boundary of the Marksheffel Road site was determined by the location of the northernmost known prairie dog colony in the area. To the north of Drennan Road, the site's eastern boundary follows and lies to the east of the bottom of the Jimmy Camp Creek drainage. To the south of Drennan Road, the site's eastern and southern boundaries are based mainly on the presence of residential development that precludes occupation by prairie dogs. Another factor used in determining the site's eastern boundary near Drennan Road was the presence of active agricultural fields, mature stands of (planted) farmyard trees, and farm buildings.

Primary Area 1,458.49 Acres 590.23 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B5: General Biodiversity Interest

Biodiversity Significance Comments

The Marksheffel Road site supports 3 (1 excellent, 2 fair) occurrences of the apparently secure (G4/S3) black-tailed prairie dog (*Cynomys ludovicianus*).

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</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
17796	<i>Cynomys ludovicianus</i>	Black-tailed Prairie Dog	G4	S3	No
17796	<i>Cynomys ludovicianus</i>	Black-tailed Prairie Dog	G4	S3	No

REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
-	No Data

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date 04/25/2001
Version Author Gionfriddo, J.P.

Disclaimer

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Marksheffel Road

Site Code S.USCOHP*22220

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