

# Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Midway Prairie

Site Code S.USCOHP\*8526

## IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 188 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 382735N  
State Colorado Longitude 1042917W

<u>Quad Code</u>	<u>Quad Name</u>
38104-D4	Bar JH Ranch
38104-D5	Pinon

County  
Pueblo (CO)

<u>Watershed Code</u>	<u>Watershed Name</u>
11020003	Fountain
11020004	Chico

## SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	5,000.00 Feet	1,524.00 Meters
Maximum Elevation	5,250.00 Feet	1,600.00 Meters

### Site Description

This flat to gently rolling site contains a large (5000+ acres) example of a shortgrass prairie community (*Bouteloua gracilis*- *Hilaria jamesii*) that is in fair to good condition. The site contains the upper reaches of Dry Creek and the western tributaries to Chico Creek. This grassland is co-dominated by blue grama and galleta, with patches of alkali sacaton. Cholla is common but scattered (<5% cover) across the site. Some rather barren highlands provide habitat for James' seaheath (*Frankenia jamesii*) and shadscale saltbush (*Atriplex confertifolia*). In these areas, grass cover is very low. The Midway Prairie Site occurs primarily on deep to shallow, well drained silt clays, silty clay loams, clay loams, and clays that formed in materials weathered from shale (Limon-Razor-Midway association). The site has been grazed by cattle for over 100 years. Grazing intensity is variable across the site.

### Key Environmental Factors

No Data

### Climate Description

This site receives an average of 11 inches of rain each year, but rainfall can be highly variable from year to year.

### Land Use History

The site has been grazed by cattle for 100 years. Grazing intensity is variable across the site.

### Cultural Features

Fossil reefs are located on the sites.

## SITE DESIGN

Site Map P - Partial Mapped Date 04/24/1997  
Designer Kettler, S.M.

### Boundary Justification

The boundary roughly includes a small watershed incorporating the best condition area on the prairie. This boundary would provide an area large enough to buffer the occurrence from direct impacts from tilling, mining, etc. Ecological processes necessary for long-term protection of this site are not incorporated within the site boundaries.

Primary Area 7,861.84 Acres 3,181.59 Hectares

## SITE SIGNIFICANCE

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Biodiversity Significance Rank B4: Moderate Biodiversity Significance

## Biodiversity Significance Comments

The site contains a fair (C-ranked) occurrence of a globally vulnerable (G3G4/S3) grassland (*Bouteloua gracilis*-*Hilaria jamesii*).

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

Landscape level processes are important for the protection of the grassland community but are not included in the site boundaries. These processes include fire, herbivory, and possibly others.

### 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>
24511	<i>Bouteloua gracilis</i> - <i>Pleuraphis jamesii</i> Herbaceous Vegetation	Shortgrass Prairie	G2G4	S3	Yes

## REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
169858	Kettler, S.M., D. Clark, R.J. Rondeau, and J. Sanderson. 1997. Colorado Natural Heritage Program Field Survey to Chico Basin Ranch, April 2-4, 1997.

## ADDITIONAL TOPICS

### Additional Topics

No Data

## VERSION

Version Date 09/16/2003  
Version Author Spackman, S.C.

## Disclaimer

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