

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name North Table Mountain

Site Code S.USCOHP1*1927

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 255 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 394652N
State Colorado Longitude 1051236W

Quad Code Quad Name

39105-G2 Golden

County

Watershed Code Watershed Name

10190004 Clear

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation - Feet - Meters

Maximum Elevation - Feet - Meters

Site Description

The North Table Mountain is a prominent landmark in the Denver-Golden area and has little development on the slopes or on top of the mesa. The mountain is a mesa that is surrounded by the Great Plains except for its counter part, South Mountain. North Table Mountain consists of rolling hills, extensive grasslands, shrublands, riparian areas, rock outcrops, and small ponds. The top of the mountain is primarily grassland with several types of grass. The slopes are densely vegetated with shrubs on the upper slopes and grasses on the lower slopes. There are three ponds on the top, one of which is naturally formed. Cattle have compacted the soil around all ponds, although tiger salamanders continue to breed in the natural ponds. The current use is light grazing, although certain areas show intensive past grazing. Mineral extraction has affected a number of sites, including a noticeable area on the southwest corner of the mesa. Prairie Falcons feed and probably breed on the cliffs of the mountain, although the nest could not be located. Two nests of Red-tailed Hawks were observed, only one active. Other raptures use the area during migration. It is worthy to note that a large number of ground-nesting birds use this site, including some short-grass prairie species such as the Lark Buntings. The butterfly community contained no rare species; rather, it showed the effects of disturbance. Kilburn and White (1992) give extensive coverage to this area and should be consulted for additional information.

Key Environmental Factors

No Data

Climate Description

No Data

Land Use History

Historically the area has been used for homesteading, grazing, and mining.

Cultural Features

No Data

SITE DESIGN

Site Map P - Partial Mapped Date 09/12/1994

Designer Pague, C.A.

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes top of the mountain and surrounding slopes. The slopes are included as habitat for important components of the North Table Mountain ecosystem, including large colonies of White-Throated Swifts, Violet-Green Swallows, and at least occasional raptors. In addition, the slopes also provide a buffer from extensive transfers of invasive and weedy plants and animals.

Primary Area 1,799.11 Acres 728.08 Hectares

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SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

The site supports a fair (C-ranked) occurrence of a globally imperiled (G1G2/S1S2) *Hesperostipa comata* Great Plains mixed grass prairie. Current field surveys could elevate the biodiversity rank.

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>			
24703	<i>Hesperostipa comata</i> Herbaceous Vegetation	Colorado Front Range Great Plains Mixed Grass Prairie	G1G2	S1S2	Yes

REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
158822	Kilburn, P. and S. L. White. 1992. North Table Mountain its history and natural features. Jefferson County Natural Association.

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date 09/12/1994

Version Author Pague, C.A.

Disclaimer

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