

# Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Ou Creek

Site Code S.USCOHP\*026

## IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 1465 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>
2658	S.USCOHP*27934	Comanche

## LOCATORS

Nation United States Latitude 371854N  
State Colorado Longitude 1031359W

### Quad Code Quad Name

37103-C3 Kim North  
37103-C2 Andrix

### County

Las Animas (CO)

### Watershed Code Watershed Name

11020013 Two Butte

## SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	5,203.00 Feet	1,585.87 Meters
Maximum Elevation	5,495.00 Feet	1,674.88 Meters

### Site Description

The Ou Creek site is located in the vicinity of pasture 11ANE in Comanche National Grassland. Ou Creek flows north through the site from an elevation of 5,400 feet to 4,950 feet before its confluence with Mustang Creek. The site is in shortgrass prairie that is dominated by snakeweed (*Gutierrezia sarothrae*), blue grama (*Bouteloua gracilis*), needle-and-thread grass (*Hesperostipa comata*), and sand sagebrush (*Artemisia frigida*). The narrow, intermittent gully contains cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*), Canada ryegrass (*Elymus canadensis*), and poison ivy (*Toxicodendron rydbergii*). There are a few two-track roads that bisect the site and it is 1 miles north of Highway 160. It is lightly grazed and there are few exotics. It is one of the better examples of shortgrass prairie on the Comanche National Grassland. Raptors are known to nest in the area.

### 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 09/29/2009  
Designer Panjabi, S.S.

### Boundary Justification

The boundary is drawn to include the known occurrences, additional potential habitat, and the local mosaic of plant communities. The boundary was digitized while referencing a one meter digital color orthophoto quad and a 1:24,000 digital quad.

Primary Area 4,144.46 Acres 1,677.21 Hectares

## SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B2: Very High Biodiversity Significance

### Biodiversity Significance Comments

A good quality (B-ranked) occurrence of the globally imperiled (G2G3/S2S3) Colorado green gentian (*Frasera coloradensis*) was recorded. This population of hundreds of plants extended for 2 miles on sparsely

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vegetated limestone outcrops. It was first documented in 1947 and has been viable for over 50 years. There is also a fair (C-ranked) occurrence of the globally imperiled (G2/S2) *Cercocarpus montanus* / *Hesperostipa comata* mixed foothills shrubland and a fair (C-ranked) occurrence of the state rare (G4/S2?) *Bouteloua gracilis* - *Buchloe dactyloides* shortgrass prairie. The globally imperiled (G3G4T2T3/S2) dwarf milkweed (*Asclepias uncialis* ssp. *uncialis*) was observed in the 1990s in vegetative state, but was not located in 2006.

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

Future plans for this grazing allotment.

## 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>
24531	<i>Cercocarpus montanus</i> / <i>Hesperostipa comata</i> Shrubland	Mixed Foothill Shrublands	G2	S2	No
24419	<i>Frasera coloradensis</i>	Colorado green gentian	G2G3	S2S3	Yes
24979	<i>Bouteloua gracilis</i> - <i>Buchloe dactyloides</i> Herbaceous Vegetation	Shortgrass Prairie	G4	S2?	No
23798	<i>Asclepias uncialis</i> ssp. <i>uncialis</i>	dwarf milkweed	G3G4T2T3	S2	No

## REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
163319	Culver, D.R. 1995. Colorado Natural Heritage Program Comanche National Grassland Inventory.

## ADDITIONAL TOPICS

### Additional Topics

Original site design by Handwerk, J.E. and C.A. Pague 1997-04-25.

## VERSION

Version Date 09/29/2009  
Version Author Panjabi, S.S.

## Disclaimer

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