

# Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Pawnee Buttes

Site Code S.USCOHP\*554

## IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 716 Site Class PCA  
Site Alias Pawnee Bluffs West  
Site Alias Pawnee Buttes Macrosite  
Site Alias Pawnee Woodlands North  
Site Alias Pawnee Woodlands South

## Network of Conservation Areas (NCA)

<u>NCA Site ID</u>	<u>NCA Site Code</u>	<u>NCA Site Name</u>
1198	S.USVAHQ*484	Western High Plains

## LOCATORS

Nation United States Latitude 405132N  
State Colorado Longitude 1040643W

<u>Quad Code</u>	<u>Quad Name</u>
40103-G8	Pawnee Buttes
40104-G1	Grover SE
40104-H1	Grover NE

County  
Weld (CO)

<u>Watershed Code</u>	<u>Watershed Name</u>
10190014	Pawnee
10190017	Sidney Draw
10190009	Crow
10190015	Upper Lodgepole

## SITE DESCRIPTION

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

### Site Description

The site encompasses steep bluffs on the high plains of northern Colorado which create habitat for unusual community types. Spectacular views are available from much of the bluffs and surrounding prairie. Multiple ledges provide small cliff bands. The areas with very shallow soils are dominated by cushion plants while areas with deeper soils are dominated by grasses. The bluffs are characterized by bare ground with limber pine (*Pinus flexilis*), Rocky Mountain juniper (*Juniperus scopulorum*), yucca (*Yucca elata*), blue grama (*Bouteloua gracilis*) and little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*) all present in low cover.

### Key Environmental Factors

Wind prevents soil build-up.

### Climate Description

No Data

### Land Use History

No Data

### Cultural Features

No Data

## SITE DESIGN

Site Map Y - Yes Mapped Date 06/27/2011  
Designer Rondeau, R.J.

### Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the Chalk Bluffs which support the community and plant occurrences.

Primary Area 13,176.75 Acres 5,332.46 Hectares

## SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B2: Very High Biodiversity Significance

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## Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site supports excellent (A-ranked) and good (B-ranked) occurrences of a globally imperiled (G2/S2) natural community, *Juniperus scopulorum* / *Schizachyrium scoparium*, good (B-ranked) and good to fair (BC-ranked) occurrences of a globally vulnerable (G3/S2) *Schizachyrium scoparium* - *Bouteloua curtipendula* mixed grass prairie and excellent (A-ranked) and fair (C-ranked) occurrences of a state rare (G5/S2) plant, mountain cat's-eye (*Oreocarya cana*).

Other Values Rank No Data

## Other Values Comments

No Data

## LAND MANAGEMENT ISSUES

### Land Use Comments

Wind turbines are common in this area. Cattle grazing, farming, and oil and gas development are within the greater landscape.

### Natural Hazard Comments

No Data

### Exotics Comments

Dalmatian toadflax is known from a small area and is monitored by CNAP.

### Offsite

No Data

### Information Needs

No Data

## ASSOCIATED ELEMENTS OF BIODIVERSITY

<u>Element State ID</u>	<u>State Scientific Name</u>	<u>State Common Name</u>	<u>Global Rank</u>	<u>State Rank</u>	<u>Driving Site Rank</u>
17096	<i>Oreocarya cana</i>	mountain cat's-eye	G5	S2	No
24967	<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i> - <i>Bouteloua curtipendula</i> Western Great Plains Herbaceous Vegetation	Great Plains Mixed Grass Prairies (Sandstone/Gravel Breaks)	G3	S2	No
17096	<i>Oreocarya cana</i>	mountain cat's-eye	G5	S2	No
24967	<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i> - <i>Bouteloua curtipendula</i> Western Great Plains Herbaceous Vegetation	Great Plains Mixed Grass Prairies (Sandstone/Gravel Breaks)	G3	S2	No
17096	<i>Oreocarya cana</i>	mountain cat's-eye	G5	S2	No
24725	<i>Juniperus scopulorum</i> / <i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i> Woodland	Scarp Woodlands	G2	S2	Yes
24725	<i>Juniperus scopulorum</i> / <i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i> Woodland	Scarp Woodlands	G2	S2	Yes
17096	<i>Oreocarya cana</i>	mountain cat's-eye	G5	S2	No
17096	<i>Oreocarya cana</i>	mountain cat's-eye	G5	S2	No
24725	<i>Juniperus scopulorum</i> / <i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i> Woodland	Scarp Woodlands	G2	S2	Yes

## REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
198771	Rondeau, R.J. 2011. Colorado Natural Heritage Program field surveys.

## ADDITIONAL TOPICS

### Additional Topics

Original site design by Pague, C.A. 1994-09-12.

## VERSION

<b>Version Date</b>	06/27/2011
<b>Version Author</b>	Rondeau, R.J.

## Disclaimer

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