

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Pawnee Grassland West

Site Code S.USCOHP*25153

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 2162 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>
2163	S.USCOHP*25154	Pawnee Grassland

LOCATORS

Nation United States Latitude 404605N
State Colorado Longitude 1043101W

Quad Code Quad Name

40104-E5	Galeton
40104-G5	Chalk Bluffs SE
40104-H3	Hereford
40104-E4	Cornish
40104-H5	Chalk Bluffs East
40104-H7	Carr East
40104-H4	Hereford NW
40104-F4	Baker Draw
40104-G7	Dover
40104-G4	Reno Reservoir
40104-F3	Briggsdale
40104-G6	Chalk Bluffs SW
40104-E3	Fosston
40104-H6	Chalk Bluffs West
40104-F6	Antelope Reservoir
40104-G3	Hereford SE
40104-F5	Purcell

County

Weld (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name

10190008	Lone Tree-Owl
10190009	Crow

SITE DESCRIPTION

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

Site Description

The site is roughly 86% native grasslands or mixed grasslands/forbs/cacti. Small patches of mixed shrubland and agricultural lands are included, each comprising roughly 6% of the area. Trace amounts of bare land, riparian and open water exist. Multiple grassland birds inhabit the site. Mountain Plover, McCown's Longspur, Chestnut-collared Longspur and Burrowing Owl have all been documented along with historical occurrences of Ferruginous Hawks and Long-billed Curlew. Black-tailed prairie dogs, an important food source of swift fox, have been observed. Recent records of northern leopard frogs have also been documented. Numerous state vulnerable plant communities in the area include Shortgrass Prairie (*Atriplex canescens*/*Bouteloua gracilis*), Wet Meadows (*Carex nebracensis* Herbaceous Vegetation), Salt Meadows (*Distichlis spicata* Herbaceous Vegetation), Clustered Sedge Wetland (*Carex praegracilis* Herbaceous Vegetation), and Bulrush (*Schoenoplectus pungens* Herbaceous Vegetation). Dog Parsley, Plains Milkvetch, Mountain Cat's-eye, and Wyoming Feverfew, all state rare plants, have also been recorded from the site.

Key Environmental Factors

No Data

Climate Description

No Data

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Land Use History

No Data

Cultural Features

No Data

SITE DESIGN

Site Map P - Partial

Mapped Date 10/18/2004

Designer Sovell, J.R.

Boundary Justification

The site was drawn primarily for McCown's Longspur, Chestnut-collared Longspur and Mountain Plover and includes native grasslands surrounding known occurrences of rare grassland birds. Major agricultural areas to the south, east and west were excluded. Boundary was drawn using Landsat ETM+ satellite imagery and 25m Colorado Vegetation Classification data (CDOW).

Primary Area 316,935.61 Acres 128,259.80 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site supports multiple occurrences of McCown's Longspur (G4/S2B), Chestnut-collared Longspur (G5/S1B) and Mountain Plover (G2/S2B). Pawnee Grasslands East and Pawnee Grasslands West represent the highest density of McCown's Longspur in the state and the best place for conservation of this species. Biodiversity rank is based on extant occurrences of the globally imperiled Mountain Plover.

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>
21730	<i>Calcarius ornatus</i>	Chestnut-collared Longspur	G5	S1B	No
21730	<i>Calcarius ornatus</i>	Chestnut-collared Longspur	G5	S1B	No
21730	<i>Calcarius ornatus</i>	Chestnut-collared Longspur	G5	S1B	No
18461	<i>Calcarius mccownii</i>	McCown's Longspur	G4	S2B	No
18609	<i>Charadrius montanus</i>	Mountain Plover	G2	S2B	Yes
21730	<i>Calcarius ornatus</i>	Chestnut-collared Longspur	G5	S1B	No
21730	<i>Calcarius ornatus</i>	Chestnut-collared Longspur	G5	S1B	No
21730	<i>Calcarius ornatus</i>	Chestnut-collared Longspur	G5	S1B	No
18461	<i>Calcarius mccownii</i>	McCown's Longspur	G4	S2B	No
18461	<i>Calcarius mccownii</i>	McCown's Longspur	G4	S2B	No
18609	<i>Charadrius montanus</i>	Mountain Plover	G2	S2B	Yes
18609	<i>Charadrius montanus</i>	Mountain Plover	G2	S2B	Yes
18609	<i>Charadrius montanus</i>	Mountain Plover	G2	S2B	Yes

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18609	<i>Charadrius montanus</i>	Mountain Plover	G2	S2B	No
18609	<i>Charadrius montanus</i>	Mountain Plover	G2	S2B	No
18609	<i>Charadrius montanus</i>	Mountain Plover	G2	S2B	No
18461	<i>Calcarius mccownii</i>	McCown's Longspur	G4	S2B	No
18461	<i>Calcarius mccownii</i>	McCown's Longspur	G4	S2B	No
18461	<i>Calcarius mccownii</i>	McCown's Longspur	G4	S2B	No
18461	<i>Calcarius mccownii</i>	McCown's Longspur	G4	S2B	No
18461	<i>Calcarius mccownii</i>	McCown's Longspur	G4	S2B	No
18461	<i>Calcarius mccownii</i>	McCown's Longspur	G4	S2B	No
21730	<i>Calcarius ornatus</i>	Chestnut-collared Longspur	G5	S1B	No
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18461	<i>Calcarius mccownii</i>	McCown's Longspur	G4	S2B	No

REFERENCES

Reference ID	Full Citation
192546	Central Shortgrass Prairie Bird Working Group. 2004. Meeting held on July 29, 2004 at CSU. Participants included personnel from CNHP, Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, Colorado Division of Wildlife and Playa Lakes Joint Venture.

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date	10/18/2004
Version Author	Sovell, J.R.

Disclaimer

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