

# Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Prairie and South Canyons

Site Code S.USCOHP\*22922

## IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 669 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 392548N  
State Colorado Longitude 1085750W

### Quad Code Quad Name

39108-D8 Carbonera  
39109-D1 Jim Canyon

### County

Garfield (CO)

### Watershed Code Watershed Name

14010005 Colorado headwaters-Plateau

## SITE DESCRIPTION

<b>Minimum Elevation</b>	5,082.00	<b>Feet</b>	1,549.00	<b>Meters</b>
<b>Maximum Elevation</b>	7,431.00	<b>Feet</b>	2,265.00	<b>Meters</b>

### Site Description

This PCA includes the riparian habitats of South and Prairie Canyons within the West Salt Creek drainage where the vegetation is desert shrub dominated by big sagebrush. The PCA extends for short distance upslope of the canyon bottoms into the pinyon-juniper woodlands. The boundaries of the PCA continue south from the canyon openings into the saltbush fans and flats characteristic of areas south of the Bookcliffs. Here the vegetation consists of medium to tall shrubs including fourwing saltbush (*Atriplex canescens*), shadscale (*Atriplex confertifolia*) and greasewood (*Sarcobatus vermiculatus*) and with an understory of perennial grasses including galleta and salina wildrye, and annual forbs. Approximately 40% of this PCA is privately owned; the remainder is BLM land and all is intensively grazed. This PCA lies in the broad open area between the Bookcliffs and the Uncompahgre uplift geologically referred to as the Grand Valley. The southern saltbush fans and flats of the PCA contain recent unconsolidated alluvial gravel deposits of the Quaternary period while the northern areas are characterized by older sedimentary deposits sandstone and shale from the Tertiary and Cretaceous periods. There are recent observations of kit foxes in this PCA and a record of breeding Sage Sparrows from the early 1990s.

### 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 12/01/2000  
Designer Sovell, J.R.

### Boundary Justification

The boundaries of this PCA include the semidesert shrub communities and margins of pinyon-juniper woodlands that are habitats of the kit fox (Fitzgerald et. al 1994).

Primary Area 7,244.41 Acres 2,931.72 Hectares

## SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B5: General Biodiversity Interest

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## Biodiversity Significance Comments

This PCA contains a poor (D-ranked) occurrence of the globally apparently secure (G4) kit fox which is imperiled in the state.

Other Values Rank No Data

## Other Values Comments

No Data

## LAND MANAGEMENT ISSUES

### Land Use Comments

Both the private and BLM portions of the PCA are grazed. The past grazing practices have lead to the introduction of exotic species in the area.

### Natural Hazard Comments

No Data

### Exotics Comments

Cheatgrass is one of the more common species in the area and is spread throughout the PCA.

### 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>
19708	<i>Vulpes macrotis</i>	Kit Fox	G4	S1	Yes

## REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
172432	Fitzgerald, J. P., C. A. Meaney, and D. M. Armstrong. 1994. Mammals of Colorado. Denver Museum of Natural History and University Press of Colorado.

## ADDITIONAL TOPICS

### Additional Topics

No Data

## VERSION

Version Date 12/01/2000  
Version Author Sovell, J.R.

## Disclaimer

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