

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Rasner Ranch Playas

Site Code S.USCOHP*22431

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 1766 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 383148N
State Colorado Longitude 1040358W

Quad Code Quad Name
38104-E1 Truckton SE

County
El Paso (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name
11020005 Upper Arkansas-Lake Meredith

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	5,220.00 Feet	1,591.00 Meters
Maximum Elevation	5,280.00 Feet	1,609.00 Meters

Site Description

This site and the surrounding landscape consist of predominantly flat to somewhat rolling shortgrass prairie. Much of the area has been converted to agricultural fields for alfalfa. At least three playas or playa-like depressions are also present. One of these was visited on July 19, 2000 and found to contain a fair occurrence of the plains ambrosia (*Ambrosia linearis*). This playa, in the southwestern portion of the site is somewhat large and has not been excavated for watering cattle, unlike many playas in the county. One small portion of the playa contained standing water when visited. Most of the plains ambrosia individuals were found around the margin of this playa, with a few scattered plants on the floor of the playa. 198 plants were counted in 1/2 hour of searching at this location. Associated species include many common playa species such as buffalograss (*Buchloe dactyloides*), prairie coneflower (*Ratibida tagetes*), frog-fruit (*Phyla cuneifolia*), and the non-native verbena (*Verbena bracteata*). Upland species in the surrounding area include three awn (*Aristida purpurea*), old plainsman (*Hymenopappus tenuifolius*), and yellow-spined thistle (*Cirsium ochrocentrum*). This site also contains habitat that appears suitable for the Mountain Plover. The plains ambrosia was also observed on the roadside of the access road running southeast from the ranch compound.

Key Environmental Factors

No Data

Climate Description

No Data

Land Use History

No Data

Cultural Features

No Data

SITE DESIGN

Site Map Y - Yes Mapped Date 06/15/2001
Designer Anderson, D.G.

Boundary Justification

The boundary is drawn to include the known population of plains ambrosia, as well as additional suitable habitat for this species. These areas also appear suitable for the Mountain Plover.

Primary Area 435.17 Acres 176.11 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B4: Moderate Biodiversity Significance

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Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site contains a fair (C-ranked) occurrence of a globally vulnerable (G3/S3) plant species, plains ragweed (*Ambrosia linearis*), and a fair (C-ranked) occurrence of a globally vulnerable (G3/S3) plant community, *Buchloe dactyloides - Ratibida tagetes - Ambrosia linearis*.

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>
24524	<i>Buchloe dactyloides - Ratibida tagetes - Ambrosia linearis</i> Herbaceous Vegetation	Buffalograss Playa	G3	S3	Yes
23164	<i>Ambrosia linearis</i>	plains ragweed	G3	S3	Yes

REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
-	No Data

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date 06/15/2001

Version Author Anderson, D.G.

Disclaimer

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