

# Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Rawhide Flats Saltbush

Site Code S.USCOHP\*25359

## IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 2192 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 405439N  
State Colorado Longitude 1050343W

### Quad Code Quad Name

40105-H1	Round Butte
40105-G1	Buckeye
40105-H2	Table Mountain
40104-H8	Carr West
40104-G8	Carr SW

### County

### Watershed Code Watershed Name

10190007	Cache La Poudre
10190008	Lone Tree-Owl

## SITE DESCRIPTION

<b>Minimum Elevation</b>	5,700.00	<b>Feet</b>	1,737.36	<b>Meters</b>
<b>Maximum Elevation</b>	6,000.00	<b>Feet</b>	1,828.80	<b>Meters</b>

### Site Description

Rawhide Flats is part of a large, broad, outwash plain with terraces that gradually descend south from the Soapstone Hills. The Soapstone Hills are an east-west running extension of primarily north-south running foothills hogbacks. The hills have fairly diverse bedrock geology, including sandstone, siltstones, and shales, and contain a mosaic of mountain mahogany (*Cercocarpus montanus*) shrublands and mid-grass grasslands. Drainages on the flats are incised and the outwash plain is punctuated by several isolated bluffs and circular buttes. On the west side is a series of northwest-southeast trending hogbacks, the first of which is occupied by shale barrens with mountain mahogany. The saltbush system is dominated by four-winged saltbush (*Atriplex canescens*) with some areas of winterfat (*Kraschninnikovia lanata*) and occupies flat to very gently rolling hills below the siltstone and shale of the hills. It predominantly occupies clay loam soils on the flats. Dominant graminoids in the system are buffalograss (*Buchloe dactyloides*), blue grama (*Bouteloua gracilis*), and western wheatgrass (*Pascopyrum smithii*).

### Key Environmental Factors

The primary driving component of this system is the clay loam soils derived from siltstone and shale bedrock geology.

### Climate Description

No Data

### Land Use History

The area has been used predominantly for cattle ranching although some low-intensity residential development occurs on the outskirts.

### Cultural Features

The area has been occupied by indigenous peoples for more than 5,000 years. Evidence of teepee rings, points, and buffalo wallows are readily observed.

## SITE DESIGN

Site Map Y - Yes Mapped Date 01/26/2005  
Designer Neid, S.L.

### Boundary Justification

The site was drawn using HUC-12 subwatershed boundaries for Rawhide Creek and Coal Creek. These

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subwatersheds encompass drainage from the unique geology composition above and adjacent to the saltbush system. The geology includes Dakota Sandstone Group, Carlile Shale-Greenhorn Limestone-Graneros Shale-Mowry Shale Complex, Niobrara Formation, and Mitten Black Shale, which presumably provides chemical elements and clay particles that comprise the fine-textured, high cation content soils occupied by the system. The southern portions of the subwatershed were not included due to agricultural, industrial, and residential development.

Primary Area 46,514.79 Acres 18,823.94 Hectares

## SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

### Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site was drawn for an excellent (A-ranked) occurrence of a globally vulnerable (G3) natural community, four-winged saltbush/blue grama (*Atriplex canescens*/*Bouteloua gracilis*) shrubland. The site also supports an excellent occurrence of a more common, globally secure winterfat/western wheatgrass-blue grama (*Kraschninnikovia lanata*/*Pascopyrum smithii*-*Bouteloua gracilis*) shrubland.

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

Element	State Scientific Name	State Common Name	Global Rank	State Rank	Driving Site Rank
24660	<i>Atriplex canescens</i> / <i>Bouteloua gracilis</i> Shrubland	Shortgrass Prairie	G3	S3	Yes
24851	<i>Krascheninnikovia lanata</i> / <i>Pascopyrum smithii</i> - <i>Bouteloua gracilis</i> Dwarf-shrub Herbaceous Vegetation	Western Slope Grasslands	G4	SU	No

## REFERENCES

Reference ID	Full Citation
192692	Doyle, G.A., S.L. Neid and R.J. Rondeau. 2005. Final Report: Survey of Critical Biological Resources, Larimer County, Colorado. Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Fort Collins, CO.

## ADDITIONAL TOPICS

### Additional Topics

No Data

## VERSION

Version Date 01/26/2005

Version Author Neid, S.L.

## Disclaimer

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