

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Riser at Calhan

Site Code S.USCOHP2*2304

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 88 Site Class PCA
Site Alias Riser

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 390306N
State Colorado Longitude 1041536W

Quad Code Quad Name

39104-A3 Calhan
39104-A2 Ramah South

County

El Paso (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name

11020011 Big Sandy

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	6,300.00 Feet	1,920.00 Meters
Maximum Elevation	6,700.00 Feet	2,042.00 Meters

Site Description

The Riser at Calhan site is located within a mile northeast of the incorporated area of Calhan, and continues north and northeast for approximately three miles. The entire area is privately owned except for the right-of-way areas. It is near the upper elevational extent of shortgrass and midgrass prairies in El Paso County, approaching 6,600 feet at its southeastern boundary. Ostensibly, this area includes the highest of the high plains in El Paso County. The landscape is topographically diverse, with high rolling hills in the eastern portion overlooking the bottomlands upslope from an unnamed reservoir at the northwestern edge of the site. Numerous drainages flow in a generally northern direction from the site towards Big Sandy Creek. The habitat for the plains ragweed in this area is somewhat different than that further south, where this species inhabits playas (dry lakes). In the Riser at Calhan site this species is found in shallow draws and in a depression in a pasture. These occurrences also mark the upper elevational limit of occurrences known to be extant at this time. Plains ragweed is also common on the roadsides, including US Highway 24 and Harrisville Road.

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 06/15/2001

Designer Anderson, D.G.

Boundary Justification

The boundary encompasses the known occurrences of plains ambrosia in the area and additional suitable habitat in draws and bottomlands around the occurrences. The roadside occurrences of the species are also included in the PCA, although it was not drawn specifically to include these occurrences.

Primary Area 2,563.89 Acres 1,037.57 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B4: Moderate Biodiversity Significance

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Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site contains historical occurrences of a globally vulnerable (G3/S3) plant species, plains ragweed (*Ambrosia linearis*). These occurrences are ecologically significant because the plant is found at high elevation and in slightly different habitat than elsewhere in El Paso County.

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

Need current field surveys to document persistence of plains ragweed populations.

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>
23164	<i>Ambrosia linearis</i>	plains ragweed	G3	S3	Yes
23164	<i>Ambrosia linearis</i>	plains ragweed	G3	S3	Yes

REFERENCES

Reference ID Full Citation

- No Data

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date 06/15/2001

Version Author Anderson, D.G.

Disclaimer

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