

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Round Top Hill

Site Code S.USCOHP*27174

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 2486 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 375216N
State Colorado Longitude 1034724W

Quad Code Quad Name

37103-G7 Timpas
37103-H7 Timpas NE

County

Otero (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name

11020005 Upper Arkansas-Lake Meredith

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	4,300.00	Feet	1,310.64	Meters
Maximum Elevation	4,493.00	Feet	1,369.47	Meters

Site Description

The site is a mix of short and mid grass prairie located on a patchwork of fee simple parcels and Comanche National Grassland parcels leased by the Edgar Ranch. It is generally bordered on the east and west by dirt surface county roads. It is centered on the rise known as Round Top Hill and includes the Dry Creek channel on the western edge.

Key Environmental Factors

Surficial geology is a combination of calcareous shales and limestones of the Niobrara formation, and older gravels and alluviums (Tweto 1979). Soil type is limited to the Manzanola series, which are described as very deep, well drained soils that formed in alluvial materials derived from sedimentary rock (SCS 1994).

Climate Description

The climate is semiarid and is typical of the high plains of southeastern Colorado where approximately 13 inches of precipitation is received annually. Most precipitation occurs between April and September, with May typically being the wettest month. Annually, climate of the area is characterized by cold winters and hot summers with winter temperatures as low as zero on at least several days and temperatures of over 100 °F occurring on many days in July and August (HPRCC 2008).

Land Use History

Land use has historically been dominated by ranching of sheep and cattle since the mid 1800's (Friedman 1985). The Edgar Ranch continues cattle ranching as the sole land use.

Cultural Features

No Data

SITE DESIGN

Site Map Y - Yes Mapped Date 04/28/2008

Designer Stevens, J.E.

Boundary Justification

The boundary is drawn to contain the rare plants found on the gravelly shale bearing soils of the Niobrara formation, as well as other potential habitat found on the older quaternary gravels and alluviums. Although the geology thought to be important to this subspecies also occurs outside of the site, the boundary as drawn covers the minimum extent needed to maintain this occurrence.

Primary Area 4,301.12 Acres 1,740.61 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

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Biodiversity Significance Comments

The site supports a good (B-ranked) occurrence of a globally imperiled (G3G4T2/S2) plant subspecies, rayless goldenweed (*Oenopsis foliosa* var. *monocephala*).

Other Values Rank No Data

Other Values Comments

No Data

LAND MANAGEMENT ISSUES

Land Use Comments

The current livestock grazing regimes appear compatible with the continued viability of the biological resources. Appropriate timing and intensity of grazing may be a valuable and necessary management tool.

Natural Hazard Comments

No Data

Exotics Comments

No Data

Offsite

No Data

Information Needs

Significant communities occur throughout the area beyond the site boundary. Further inventory could locate occurrences nearby. Very little is known about the role of fire in these types. Additional research into the role and effects of fire is needed.

ASSOCIATED ELEMENTS OF BIODIVERSITY

<u>Element State ID</u>	<u>State Scientific Name</u>	<u>State Common Name</u>	<u>Global Rank</u>	<u>State Rank</u>	<u>Driving Site Rank</u>
40463	<i>Oenopsis foliosa</i> var. <i>monocephala</i>	rayless goldenweed	G3G4T2	S2	Yes

REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
195120	Friedman, Paul D. 1985. Final Report of History and Oral History Studies of the Fort Carson Pinon Canyon Maneuver Area, Las Animas, Colorado. USDI. National Park Service, Interagency Archaeological Services Branch, Rocky Mountain Regional Office, Denver, CO.
195121	HPRCC. 2008. High Plains Regional Climate Center Web Page. Based on data from automated weather stations operated by Colorado for southeastern Colorado area. High Plains Regional Climate Center Web Page: < http://www.hprcc.unl.edu >
195097	Stevens, J., J. Sovell, D. Culver, K. Decker, L. Grunau, A. Lavender, and C. Gaughan. 2008. Final Report: Southeastern Colorado Survey of Critical Biological Resources 2007. Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Fort Collins, CO.
192747	Tweto, O. 1979. Geologic Map of Colorado, 1:500,000. United States Geological Survey, Department of Interior, and Geologic Survey of Colorado, Denver, CO.
193653	U.S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service. 1994. State Soil Geographic (STATSGO) database for Colorado. Fort Worth, TX.

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date 04/28/2008
Version Author Stevens, J.E.

Disclaimer

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