

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Sand Creek Ridge

Site Code S.USCOHP*22919

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 1428 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 385238N
State Colorado Longitude 1043846W

Quad Code Quad Name

38104-G6 Elsmere
38104-H5 Falcon
38104-H6 Falcon NW

County

El Paso (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name

11020003 Fountain
11020004 Chico

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation - Feet - Meters
Maximum Elevation - Feet - Meters

Site Description

The site is located directly between the tallgrass prairie areas around the Colorado Springs Airport and the mixed grass prairies of the Judge Orr Road site. The Sand Creek Ridge Site consists of a gently rolling ridgeline that separates the Upper Jimmy Camp Creek drainage from the East Fork Sand Creek drainage. The east side of the ridge descends through moderately steep hillsides of ponderosa pine woods into the Upper Jimmy Camp Creek drainage. The west side of the ridge descends gradually through open needle and thread (*Stipa comata*) prairies down to the East Fork of the Sand Creek. U.S. Highway 24 traverses the ridge on the west side.

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 12/15/2000
Designer Stevens, J.E.

Boundary Justification

The boundary encompasses the mixed grass prairie element occurrence. It extends from just north of Colorado Highway 94 and continues northeast along the ridge to south of the town of Falcon. On the east it is bordered by the Ponderosa pine woodlands and on the west by the transition into a more diverse mixture of short and midgrass species.

Primary Area 4,179.31 Acres 1,691.31 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B4: Moderate Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site contains a good (B-ranked) occurrence of a globally-secure (G5 S2S3) needle and thread-blue

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grama (*Stipa comata*-*Bouteloua gracilis*) prairie community. While the size and quality of this site are good, the proximity of the site to urban areas and its location along Highway 24 reduce its landscape context value.

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> |
| 24787 | <i>Stipa comata</i> - <i>Bouteloua gracilis</i> Herbaceous Vegetation | Montane Grasslands | G5 | S2S3 | Yes |

REFERENCES

| <u>Reference ID</u> | <u>Full Citation</u> |
|---------------------|--|
| 162298 | Stevens, J.E., E. Mohr and M. Hyde. 2001. Colorado Natural Heritage Program Basinwide Mapping Survey of the Upper White River Basin. |

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date 12/13/2001

Version Author Bell, J.B.

Disclaimer

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