

# Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Sand Creek Valley

Site Code S.USCOHP\*25355

## IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 2188 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 405719N  
State Colorado Longitude 1054619W

<u>Quad Code</u>	<u>Quad Name</u>
40105-H6	Eaton Reservoir
40105-H7	Sand Creek Pass

### County

Larimer (CO)

<u>Watershed Code</u>	<u>Watershed Name</u>
10180010	Upper Laramie

## SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	8,200.00 Feet	2,499.36 Meters
Maximum Elevation	8,700.00 Feet	2,651.76 Meters

### Site Description

The Sand Creek Basin occurs south of Chimney Rock near the Colorado-Wyoming border. It forms a wide open valley of rolling hills supporting sagebrush shrublands, mountain mahogany shrublands, and native grasslands. Limber pine (*Pinus flexilis*) occurs on rock outcrops and ridges. Swales and valleys are dominated by three-tip sagebrush (*Artemisia tripartita*) and a variety of grasses such as Idaho fescue (*Festuca idahoensis*), bluebunch wheatgrass (*Pseudoregnaria spicata*) and needle-and-thread grass (*Stipa comata*). A dense, very wet willow thicket occupies the riparian corridor of Sand Creek, which flows north into Wyoming. On the State Land Board section within the site, Sand Creek flows through a picturesque granitic canyon. Numerous stream channels exist within the site and are mostly ephemeral. Adjacent to the site is Bull Mountain, dominated by stands of aspen and Douglas-fir on steep east to north-facing slopes. Sandhill cranes have been noted to occur near this reach of Sand Creek. Larchleaf beardtongue (*Penstemon laricifolius* ssp. *exilifolius*) also occurs along roads and rock outcrops throughout the area.

### 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 01/25/2005

Designer Neid, S.L.

### Boundary Justification

Similar topographic terrain immediately surrounding the delineated element occurrence within Sand Creek Valley was incorporated into the site boundary.

Primary Area 7,167.49 Acres 2,900.59 Hectares

## SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

### Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site was drawn for a good (B-ranked) occurrence of a globally vulnerable, state critically imperiled

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(G3/S1) natural community, three-tipped sagebrush/Idaho fescue (*Artemisia tripartita*/*Festuca idahoensis*) shrubland.

Other Values Rank No Data

## Other Values Comments

No Data

## LAND MANAGEMENT ISSUES

### Land Use Comments

A majority of the site is grazed by cattle.

### 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>
24771	<i>Artemisia tripartita</i> ssp. <i>tripartita</i> / <i>Festuca idahoensis</i> Shrub Herbaceous Vegetation	Mixed Foothill Shrublands	G3	S1?	Yes

## REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
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 01/25/2005  
Version Author Neid, S.L.

## Disclaimer

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