

# Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Sand Creek below Boulder Ridge

Site Code S.USCOHP\*25352

## IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 2185 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 405713N  
State Colorado Longitude 1054532W

<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	8,100.00 Feet	2,468.88 Meters
Maximum Elevation	8,500.00 Feet	2,590.80 Meters

### Site Description

The Sand Creek site 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-tipped sage (*Artemisia tripartita*) and a variety of grasses such as Idaho fescue (*Festuca idahoensis*), bluebunch wheatgrass (*Pseudoroegneria spicata*) and needle-and-thread grass (*Hesperostipa 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, Sand Creek flows through a picturesque granitic canyon. There are numerous stream channels and most are ephemeral. Adjacent to the site is Bull Mountain, dominated by stands of aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) and Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) on steep east to north-facing slopes. Sandhill Cranes (*Grus canadensis* ssp. *tabida*) 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

The element occurrences along this reach of Sand Creek were buffered by 2,000 feet. Keate (2004), Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, suggests a 2,000-foot buffer distance to minimize impacts to associated wildlife.

Primary Area 2,993.87 Acres 1,211.58 Hectares

## SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B4: Moderate Biodiversity Significance

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## Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site supports a good (B-ranked) occurrence of the state rare (G5/S3) Geyer's willow / beaked sedge (*Salix geeyeriana* / *Carex utriculata*) shrubland and a fair (C-ranked) occurrence of a globally vulnerable (G3/S3) riparian natural community, park willow (*Salix monticola*) / mesic graminoid 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

<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>
24585	<i>Salix monticola</i> / Mesic Graminoids Shrubland	Montane Riparian Willow Carr	G3	S3	Yes
24803	<i>Salix geeyeriana</i> / <i>Carex utriculata</i> Shrubland	Geyer's Willow/Beaked Sedge	G5	S3	Yes

## REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
198407	Culver, D.R., K. Decker, J. Parker, J. Bell, J. Sovell, and J. Huggins. 2010. CNHP Final Report: Identification and Assessment of Important Wetlands within the North Platte Watershed, CO. Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Fort Collins, CO.
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.
192813	Keate, Nancy S. 2004. Bibliography of Impacts to Wetlands II - Draft - revised - Jan 2004. Utah Wetland Outreach, Wildlife Resources, Utah Department of Natural Resources.

## ADDITIONAL TOPICS

### Additional Topics

No Data

## VERSION

Version Date 12/09/2009  
Version Author Culver, D.R.

## Disclaimer

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