

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Sangres Alluvial Fan

Site Code S.USCOHP*10845

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 80 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>
1956	S.USCOHP*5778	Sangre de Cristo

LOCATORS

Nation United States Latitude 381902N
State Colorado Longitude 1055602W

Quad Code Quad Name
38105-C8 Bushnell Peak

County
Saguache (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name
13010003 San Luis

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	8,300.00 Feet	2,530.00 Meters
Maximum Elevation	9,100.00 Feet	2,774.00 Meters

Site Description

The western side of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains join the San Luis Valley with large undulating alluvial fans facing southwest. The Sangre's Alluvial Fan site occurs in the northern part of Saguache County. Numerous creeks, such as Raspberry, Butterfly, and Nieland, dissect the fan and create a mosaic of vegetation types. A rare oak savanna dominates, with strips of Gambel oak (*Quercus gambelii*) found along the small cobble drainages, surrounded by a needle and thread (*Hesperostipa comata*) grassland. Northern pocket gophers (*Thomomys talpoides agrestis*) are common within the grassland. The Colorado Division of Wildlife report that the Gunnison Sage Grouse (*Centrocercus minimus*) from the Decker Creek site forage amongst the oaks found at the Sangres Alluvial Fan site. We also discovered the first Saguache County record for a tiger beetle (*Cicindela cimarrona purpurea*) within the oak savanna. Larger streams found along the eastern edge support excellent quality stands of aspen riparian forest, with few to no exotic plants, healthy banks, and clear and clean stream bottoms. Overall the site is relatively free of non-native plants with only a few patches of cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*) found near the roadsides. This site is relatively unfragmented with only a few two-track roads and one residence near the middle. The primary land use appears to be light to moderate cattle grazing. It is approximately 2,550 acres, ranging in elevation from 8,300 to 9,100 feet (2,530-2,775 meters).

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 02/15/1998
Designer Rondeau, R.J.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries drawn encompass the occurrences and the extent of the Gambel's oak savanna. 1992 NAPP infrared aerial photographs were used to assist with delineating these boundaries. The upper hydrologic boundaries for the streams are not included. Consideration of land use in these headwater basins will enhance any site management plans.

Primary Area 3,727.52 Acres 1,508.48 Hectares

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SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

The Sangre's Alluvial Fan site supports an excellent and large occurrence of an unusual association of Gambel's oak (*Quercus gambelii*) with needle-and-thread grass (*Hesperostipa comata*), the only documented occurrence in the world. In addition, the creeks that run through the savanna from the Sangre de Cristo mountains exhibit unusually high quality occurrences of riparian forest dominated by either aspen or oak.

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

Overall the site is relatively free of non-native plants with only a few patches of cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*) found near the roadsides.

Offsite

No Data

Information Needs

No Data

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>
24717	<i>Populus tremuloides</i> / Tall Forbs Forest	Montane Aspen Forest	G5	S5	No
24791	<i>Quercus gambelii</i> / <i>Symphoricarpos oreophilus</i> Shrubland	Mixed Mountain Shrublands	G5	S3S4	No
40643	<i>Quercus gambelii</i> / <i>Hesperostipa comata</i> Shrubland [Provisional]		GU	SU	Yes
24717	<i>Populus tremuloides</i> / Tall Forbs Forest	Montane Aspen Forest	G5	S5	No

REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
-	No Data

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date	02/15/1998
Version Author	Rondeau, R.J.

Disclaimer

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