

# Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Six Mile Flats

Site Code S.USCOHP\*093

## IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 632 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 374825N  
State Colorado Longitude 1065808W

### Quad Code Quad Name

37106-G8 Creede

### County

Mineral (CO)

### Watershed Code Watershed Name

13010001 Rio Grande headwaters

## SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	8,600.00 Feet	2,621.00 Meters
Maximum Elevation	9,040.00 Feet	2,755.00 Meters

### Site Description

Fires and grazing may have been important ecological processes for these grasslands (Johnston 1997). Current ownership patterns limit both of these processes. A management plan should incorporate all the landowners and contain a strategy that would help to maintain the integrity of the unique grassland, e.g. limited or clustered development that provides for extensive acres of open space.

### 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 12/10/1998

Designer Rondeau, R.J.

### Boundary Justification

This boundary is drawn to include the entire geologically unique flats adjacent to the Rio Grande. It includes both the known as well as suitable habitat for the elements of biodiversity found at the site. The boundary was delineated using on-the-ground verification and 7.5 minute topographic maps.

Primary Area 2,666.86 Acres 1,079.25 Hectares

## SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

### Biodiversity Significance Comments

The Six Mile Flats site contains a fair (C-ranked) example of a globally imperiled (G2/S2) montane grassland (*Muhlenbergia filiculmis*). This grassland is large, but fragmented. It provides habitat for the Gunnison prairie dog (*Cynomys gunnisoni gunnisoni*) and a skipper butterfly that is rare in Colorado (*Oarisma edwardsii*). There is also a small occurrence of the state rare (GU/S3) Arizona fescue montane grassland (*Festuca arizonica - Muhlenbergia filiculmis*). Slimstem muhly is moderately preferred forage for cattle, sheep, horses, elk, and deer (Dennis and Antonio 1980), and is therefore a grass that increases with livestock grazing. The Colorado Natural Heritage Program believes that this grassland is a naturally occurring plant community when it occurs on these expansive, flat, and windswept open areas. Within the winter range, Arizona fescue,

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blue grama (*Bouteloua gracilis*), fringed sage (*Artemisia frigida*), and mountain muhly (*Muhlenbergia montana*) are major foods for bighorn sheep that visit Arizona fescue stands (Shepherd 1975). All of these grasses and forbs are present at this site and the adjacent Antelope Park site.

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>
22762	<i>Erigeron philadelphicus</i>	Philadelphia fleabane	G5	S1	No
21593	<i>Muhlenbergia filiculmis</i> Herbaceous Vegetation	Montane Grasslands	G2	S2	Yes
24707	<i>Festuca arizonica</i> - <i>Muhlenbergia filiculmis</i> Herbaceous Vegetation	Montane Grasslands	GU	S3	No

## REFERENCES

### Reference ID                      Full Citation

-                                      No Data

## ADDITIONAL TOPICS

### Additional Topics

No Data

## VERSION

Version Date      12/10/1998

Version Author    Rondeau, R.J.

## Disclaimer

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