

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Spruce Mountain

Site Code S.USCOHP8*3256

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 1136 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 390950N
State Colorado Longitude 1045320W

Quad Code Quad Name

39104-B8 Larkspur
39104-B7 Greenland

County

<u>Watershed Code</u>	<u>Watershed Name</u>
10190002	Upper South Platte

SITE DESCRIPTION

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

Site Description

Spruce Mountain and Eagle Mountain are both capped buttes of Castle Rock conglomerate that rise about 400 feet above the rolling prairies below. The vegetation of the two buttes is similar and typical of other buttes in southern Douglas County. The cooler north slopes support forests of ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) and Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) with a lower strata of currant (*Ribes* sp.) and waxflower (*Jamesia americana*). Quaking aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) can be found in the gulches, and Gambel's oak (*Quercus gambelli*) grows at the transition between the forests and the surrounding grasslands. Drier south slopes are more open and continuously dominated by Gambel's oak. Mostly vertical cliffs of sandstone conglomerate surround the summit, providing numerous ledges and crevices for cliff dwelling organisms. The summit supports a plant community of ponderosa pine, Gambel's Oak, and Kinnikinik (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*). Springs flow from the cap rock of the butte on the south and east sides. The surrounding grasslands have been modified by introduced pasture grasses and years of livestock grazing. Only small remnants of native vegetation remain.

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 11/17/1995
Designer Ellingson, A.R.

Boundary Justification

The boundary presented here is intended to encompass the element occurrence, the habitat that contains it, and a sufficient buffer to prevent indirect disturbance. This has been delineated around the base of the two buttes at the grassland interface. This buffer is believed to be sufficient to prevent habitat degradation to the summit and cliffs of the buttes by weed invasion and fragmentation, and to prevent disturbance to the nest. Actions taken within this boundary should take place only after careful consideration of their effects on the element. We note that fire management may be necessary to maintain the natural communities of the area.

Primary Area 776.42 Acres 314.21 Hectares

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SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B5: General Biodiversity Interest

Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site supports a good occurrence of the state imperiled tiger beetle.

Other Values Rank No Data

Other Values Comments

No Data

LAND MANAGEMENT ISSUES

Land Use Comments

This site is under private ownership. The owners were pleased to grant permission for this study and appeared to have genuine concern for maintaining the natural value of their property.

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>
18358	<i>Cicindela nebraskana</i>	A Tiger Beetle	G4	S1?	Yes

REFERENCES

Reference ID **Full Citation**

- No Data

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date 11/17/1995

Version Author Ellingson, A.R.

Disclaimer

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