

# Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Steamboat Mountain

Site Code S.USCOHP\*27354

## IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 2514 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>
2528	S.USCOHP*27454	Front Range Foothills-Carter Lake to Boulder

## LOCATORS

Nation United States Latitude 401457N  
State Colorado Longitude 1051655W

<u>Quad Code</u>	<u>Quad Name</u>
40105-C3	Pinewood Lake
40105-B3	Lyons

### County

<u>Watershed Code</u>	<u>Watershed Name</u>
10190005	St. Vrain
10190006	Big Thompson

## SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	5,540.00 Feet	1,688.59 Meters
Maximum Elevation	6,150.00 Feet	1,874.52 Meters

### Site Description

Steamboat Mountain is the southern end of a long hogback that is separated from the northern section via movement along geologic fault lines to the north. It is separated from adjacent sections of the hogback to the south by downcutting from the North St. Vrain River, forming a gap. Steamboat Mountain has significant west-facing cliffs that harbor raptor nests and activity. The west-facing slopes of the hogback are dominated by mountain mahogany (*Cercocarpus montanus*) shrublands. There are small areas of talus and grassland that punctuate the hillslope. The graminoid understory of the shrubland shifts with elevation and bedrock geology; needle-and-thread (*Hesperostipa comata*) is characteristic along the toeslope in Quaternary deposits, New Mexico feathergrass (*Hesperostipa neomexicana*) and Scribner needlegrass (*Achnatherum scribneri*) are dominant at midslope on Fountain Formation, and wildrye (*Elymus albicans*) is characteristic above the latter and tends to occur on Ingleside Formation. Forbs are somewhat diverse but sparse in the mountain mahogany shrublands. Ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) savanna occupies the toeslope of the west-facing aspect as well as the ridgetop and east-facing side of the hogback. There is a state highway and county road at the base of the slope on the west side with some residential development and there is quarrying activity and minor development on the east-facing slope. The area is a movement corridor for wildlife. The quarries have some water source value for wildlife.

### Key Environmental Factors

Lower montane-foothills elevation zone; sandstone bedrock geology.

### Climate Description

No Data

### Land Use History

No Data

### Cultural Features

No Data

## SITE DESIGN

Site Map Y - Yes Mapped Date 10/17/2008  
Designer Neid, S.L.

### Boundary Justification

The boundary includes a landscape mosaic of ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) savanna and mountain mahogany (*Cercocarpus montanus*) shrublands, and grassland meadows that contain the element occurrences and adjacent suitable habitat.

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Primary Area 773.30 Acres

312.94 Hectares

## SITE SIGNIFICANCE

**Biodiversity Significance Rank** B2: Very High Biodiversity Significance

### Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site is drawn for a good to fair (BC-ranked) occurrence of a globally imperiled (G2/S2?) ponderosa pine / mountain mahogany / big bluestem (*Pinus ponderosa* / *Cercocarpus montanus* / *Andropogon gerardii*) foothills ponderosa pine scrub woodland, an excellent to good (AB-ranked) occurrence of the globally imperiled (G2G3/S2S3) mountain mahogany / New Mexico feathergrass (*Cercocarpus montanus* / *Hesperostipa neomexicana*) foothills shrubland, and a good (B-ranked) occurrence of a state rare (GU/S3) mountain mahogany / Griffith's wheatgrass (*Cercocarpus montanus* / *Elymus lanceolatus* ssp. *lanceolatus*) foothills 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

Exotics include cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*), Jim Hill mustard (*Sisymbrium altissimum*), and flixweed (*Descurainia sophia*).

### 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>
24921	<i>Cercocarpus montanus</i> / <i>Elymus lanceolatus</i> ssp. <i>lanceolatus</i> Shrubland	Mountain Mahogany/Griffith's Wheatgrass Shrubland	GU	S3	No
40630	<i>Cercocarpus montanus</i> / <i>Hesperostipa neomexicana</i> Shrubland	Foothills Shrubland	G2G3	S2S3	Yes
24587	<i>Pinus ponderosa</i> / <i>Cercocarpus montanus</i> / <i>Andropogon gerardii</i> Wooded Herbaceous Vegetation	Foothills Ponderosa Pine Scrub Woodlands	G2	S2?	No

## REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
195190	Neid, S., J. Lemly, K. Decker and D. Culver. 2009. Final Report: Survey of Critical Biological Resources in Boulder County 2007-2008. Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Fort Collins, CO.

## ADDITIONAL TOPICS

### Additional Topics

No Data

## VERSION

**Version Date** 10/17/2008

**Version Author** Neid, S.L.

## Disclaimer

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