

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Steinhoff Hills

Site Code S.USCOHP*5972

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 846 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 404748N
State Colorado Longitude 1051804W

Quad Code Quad Name
40105-G3 Livermore Mountain

County
Larimer (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name
10190007 Cache La Poudre

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	6,000.00 Feet	1,829.00 Meters
Maximum Elevation	6,500.00 Feet	1,981.00 Meters

Site Description

The Steinhoff Hills site is characterized by rounded hills that lie between Rabbit Creek to the north and Pine Creek to the south. The hills are formed by ancient Poudre River gravels which overlie sandstones. Small drainages flow from the hills. Elevations range from around 6,000 feet to 6,500 feet near the top of the hills. The vegetation is dominated by a mosaic of mountain mahogany (*Cercocarpus montanus*) shrublands along the middle and lower slopes and intermixed grasslands. This site has a very diverse assemblage of plant communities in a relatively small geographic area.

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 10/28/1996
Designer Kettler, S.M.

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the slopes of the hills and a buffer down to the valley bottoms to the north and south. Much of the land surrounding this site is heavily altered from its natural state.

Primary Area 880.85 Acres 356.47 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site supports fair (C-ranked) occurrences of several imperiled plant communities. The mountain mahogany/needle and thread grass (*Cercocarpus montanus*/*Stipa comata*) foothills shrubland is globally imperiled (G2/S2). Almost all known occurrences are highly degraded by invasion of the non-native cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*) as is the case at this site. The mountain mahogany/Griffith's wheatgrass (*Cercocarpus montanus*/*Elymus lanceolatus* X *Pseudoroegneria spicata*) foothills shrubland has only been documented along the northern Front Range of Colorado and apparently occurs in southeastern Wyoming (GU/S3). This occurrence has been degraded by invasion of non-native species. The mountain mahogany/New Mexico feathergrass (*Cercocarpus montanus*/*Stipa neomexicana*) foothills shrubland was

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first documented from the area near Livermore in 1994 (G2G3/S2S3). The occurrence at this site is in good condition but very small. The mountain mahogany/Scribner's needlegrass (*Cercocarpus montanus*/*Stipa scribneri*) foothills shrubland is globally vulnerable (G3/S3). The occurrence at this site is in good condition, and although fairly small, is typical for this community in Larimer County. The needle and thread grass-blue gramma (*Stipa comata*-*Bouteloua gracilis*) mixed grass prairie is common globally but uncommon in Colorado (G5/S2S3). The occurrence at this site is in fairly good condition but relatively small compared to others known from the adjacent area.

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

Element State ID	State Scientific Name	State Common Name	Global Rank	State Rank	Driving Site Rank
40630	<i>Cercocarpus montanus</i> / <i>Hesperostipa neomexicana</i> Shrubland	Foothills Shrubland	G2G3	S2S3	Yes
24787	<i>Stipa comata</i> - <i>Bouteloua gracilis</i> Herbaceous Vegetation	Montane Grasslands	G5	S2S3	No
40631	<i>Cercocarpus montanus</i> / <i>Achnatherum scribneri</i> Shrubland	Foothills Shrubland	G3	S3	No
24921	<i>Cercocarpus montanus</i> / <i>Elymus lanceolatus</i> ssp. <i>lanceolatus</i> Shrubland	Mountain Mahogany/Griffith's Wheatgrass Shrubland	GU	S3	No
24531	<i>Cercocarpus montanus</i> / <i>Hesperostipa comata</i> Shrubland	Mixed Foothill Shrublands	G2	S2	Yes

REFERENCES

Reference ID	Full Citation
164420	Bock, C. E., and J. H. Bock. 1988. Grassland birds in southeastern Arizona: impacts of fire, grazing, and alien vegetation. ICBP Technical Publication No. 7:43-58.
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.
166568	Kettler, S., J. Sanderson, S. Spackman, K. Fayette, C. Pague, D. Clark, and A. Hicks. 1996. Final Report: Significant plant, animal, and wetland resources of Larimer County and their conservation. Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Fort Collins, CO.

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date 10/28/1996
Version Author Kettler, S.M.

Disclaimer

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