

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Stollsteimer Creek at Capote Lake

Site Code S.USCOHP*24449

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 991 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 371138N
State Colorado Longitude 1071601W

Quad Code Quad Name
37107-B3 Chimney Rock

County
Archuleta (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name
14080102 Piedra

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	6,550.00 Feet	1,996.00 Meters
Maximum Elevation	6,750.00 Feet	2,057.00 Meters

Site Description

This site encompasses a low lying, flat valley along Stollsteimer Creek just west and south of Capote Lake. The valley is approximately 0.5 miles at its widest and extends for a length of approximately three miles along the creek. The elevation within the site varies from 6,550 to 6,750 feet. Stollsteimer Creek is the major feature of the site and the area is characterized by grass and pasture land with a mosaic of sagebrush (*Artemisia* sp.) and Gambel oak (*Quercus gambelii*) sporadically occurring within portions of the PCA. A large Gunnison's prairie dog (*Cynomys gunnisoni*) colony, with an estimated population of 300 individuals, occupies the PCA.

Key Environmental Factors

No Data

Climate Description

No Data

Land Use History

Livestock grazing has been the historical use of the land in this area.

Cultural Features

No Data

SITE DESIGN

Site Map Y - Yes Mapped Date 04/02/2003
Designer Sovell, J.R.

Boundary Justification

The boundary encompasses the entire extent of the prairie dog complex and the (mostly) unoccupied space among these colonies. Scattered within the unoccupied areas are several small clusters of occupied prairie dog mounds. The site is bounded on all sides by land that is unsuitable for use by prairie dogs because it is much too hilly and wooded. The boundary also includes unoccupied habitat outside of the edge of the prairie dog complex and is intended to allow for suitable areas into which the population can expand. The boundary includes the grasslands grazed by the cattle, which mimics the historic disturbance processes of fire, and herbivory by bison, natural disturbances that influenced evolution of prairie dogs.

Primary Area 492.46 Acres 199.29 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B5: General Biodiversity Interest

Biodiversity Significance Comments

The PCA contains an excellent (A rank) occurrence of the Gunnison's prairie dog (*Cynomys gunnisoni*), a species that is globally secure (G5/S5). Gunnison's prairie dogs are endemic to the southwestern United States and have a broad distribution within Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico and Utah. Gunnison's prairie

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dogs are declining throughout their range, although extent of the decline is unknown. Indiscriminate poisoning, habitat conversion, and plague have drastically reduced numbers and range (Miller and Cully 2001, Cully and Williams 2001). Plague is probably the greatest threat at this time. Prairie dogs are often referred to as keystone species upon which many other prairie species depend (Miller and Cully 2001). The Burrowing Owl (*Athene cunicularia*, G4), hawks, and fox and coyote are among those animals that are found in greatest numbers on prairie dog towns.

Other Values Rank No Data

Other Values Comments

No Data

LAND MANAGEMENT ISSUES

Land Use Comments

[Sovell 2002:] Livestock grazing is the current and historical use of the area and it probably has no impact on the viability of the Gunnison prairie dog complex.

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 Rank</u>	<u>State Rank</u>	<u>Driving Site Rank</u>
<u>State ID</u>	<u>State Scientific Name</u>	<u>State Common Name</u>			
21389	<i>Cynomys gunnisoni</i>	Gunnison's Prairie Dog	G5	S5	Yes

REFERENCES

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

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date	04/02/2003
Version Author	Sovell, J.R.

Disclaimer

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