

# Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Table Rock

Site Code S.USCOHP\*310

## IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 17 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 390724N  
State Colorado Longitude 1044008W

### Quad Code Quad Name

39104-A6 Black Forest  
39104-B6 Cherry Valley School

### County

El Paso (CO)

### Watershed Code Watershed Name

10190003 Middle South Platte-Cherry Creek

## SITE DESCRIPTION

<b>Minimum Elevation</b>	7,250.00	<b>Feet</b>	2,210.00	<b>Meters</b>
<b>Maximum Elevation</b>	7,467.00	<b>Feet</b>	2,276.00	<b>Meters</b>

### Site Description

Table Rock is a distinctive landmark in northern El Paso County. Set in the northeastern portion of the Black Forest area, this wooded mesa overlooks the headwater reaches of East Cherry Creek. It is visible for miles from the south and west as a large flat-topped mesa. Castlerock conglomerate forms the flat top of Table Rock that overlies Paleocene deposits below. The bedrock is exposed on most of the top of Table Rock, leaving only cracks and small patches of soil for a few tenacious herbaceous plants to grow in. The flanks are forested with ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*), particularly on the north-facing slope, where some large, old trees occur. In this area, the ponderosa pine woodlands of the Black Forest intersperse with broad areas of prairie grasslands. The prairie grassland matrix is composed primarily of shortgrass species, with scattered patches of mid and tallgrass species present. A specimen of prairie dropseed (*Sporobolus heterolepis*) was collected from Table Rock in 1891 and indicated the possibility that tallgrass prairie communities would be present there. In 2000, a field survey of Table Rock identified small remnant patches of the big bluestem-prairie dropseed prairie (*Andropogon gerardii*-*Sporobolus heterolepis*) from which the 1891 specimen may have been collected. Several patches of approximately 1,000 square feet or less were noted on the north and east slopes of the mesa. Additional areas to the north likely support this same community type but could not be confirmed due to different land ownership and intensive grazing practices. Richardson's alumroot (*Heuchera richardsonii*) was also collected at Table Rock in 1891. In 2000, this species was found in the forested area on the north facing slope of Table Rock. 130 plants were counted but many more are likely to occur at this site. Prairie goldenrod (*Unamia alba*) was also collected here in 1891 but this species was not seen in 2000, possibly because it was not flowering when the site was visited. Appropriate habitat was seen for this species and it may still be present at this location.

### 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 07/02/2001  
Designer Stevens, J.E.

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## Boundary Justification

The site boundary encompasses the known occurrences at Table Rock plus a small buffer. Although the occurrences are not found on the mesa top, it is also included because any disturbance to this portion of the site such as residential development would have deleterious effects on the elements present down slope.

Primary Area 192.47 Acres 77.89 Hectares

## SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

## Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site supports a fair occurrence (C-ranked) of the globally imperiled (G2 S1S2) big bluestem-prairie dropseed xeric tallgrass prairie community (*Andropogon gerardii*-*Sporobolus heterolepis*).

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>
20486	<i>Heuchera richardsonii</i>	Richardson alum-root	G5	S1	No
23559	<i>Unamia alba</i>	prairie goldenrod	G5	S2S3	No
24483	<i>Andropogon gerardii</i> - <i>Sporobolus heterolepis</i> Western Foothills Herbaceous Vegetation	Xeric Tallgrass Prairie	G2	S1S2	Yes

## REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
162855	Doyle, G.A., J. Gionfriddo, D. Anderson, and D. Culver. 2000. Final Report: Survey of Critical Wetlands and Riparian Areas in El Paso and Pueblo Counties, Colorado. Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Fort Collins, CO.
167490	Stevens, J.E. 2000. Colorado Natural Heritage Program Field Inventory of El Paso County.

## ADDITIONAL TOPICS

## Additional Topics

No Data

## VERSION

Version Date 07/02/2001  
Version Author Stevens, J.E.

## Disclaimer

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