

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Timpas South

Site Code S.USCOHP*9569

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 1583 Site Class PCA
Site Alias South Stormy Point

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 374548N
State Colorado Longitude 1034630W

Quad Code Quad Name

37103-G7	Timpas
37103-F7	Sheep Canyon
37103-G6	La Junta SW

County

Otero (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name

11020005 Upper Arkansas-Lake Meredith

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	4,550.00	Feet	1,386.84	Meters
Maximum Elevation	4,850.00	Feet	1,478.28	Meters

Site Description

The site is a mix of short and mid grass prairie located on a patchwork of fee simple parcels and Comanche National Grassland parcels leased by the Edgar Ranch. It is bordered on the east and southwest by dirt surface county roads while the western side is bounded by Colorado Highway 350. It is centered on the rise known as Stormy Point and includes the headwater portions of numerous intermittent streams that drain to the north, south and east. The lace hedgehog cactus (*Echinocereus reichenbachii* var. *perbellus*) is known from the area.

Key Environmental Factors

Surficial geology is a combination of calcareous shales and limestones and heavily influences soil characteristics and hence vegetation (Tweto 1979). Soil type is limited to the Manzanola series, which are described as very deep, well drained soils that formed in alluvial materials derived from sedimentary rock (SCS 1994).

Climate Description

The climate is semiarid and is typical of the high plains of southeastern Colorado where approximately 13 inches of precipitation is received annually. Most precipitation occurs between April and September, with May typically being the wettest month. Annually, climate of the area is characterized by cold winters and hot summers with winter temperatures as low as zero on at least several days and temperatures of over 100 °F occurring on many days in July and August (HPRCC 2008).

Land Use History

Land use has historically been dominated by ranching of sheep and cattle since the mid 1800's (Friedman 1985). The Edgar Ranch continues cattle ranching as the sole land use.

Cultural Features

No Data

SITE DESIGN

Site Map P - Partial Mapped Date 04/02/2008
Designer Stevens, J.E.

Boundary Justification

The boundary is drawn to contain the gravelly shale barrens and upper slopes of the topographic rise that support the rare plants and grassland communities. Although the geology thought to be important to these elements also occurs outside of the site, the boundary as drawn covers the minimum extent needed to maintain these known occurrences.

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Primary Area 5,797.12 Acres

2,346.02 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

The site supports a good (B-ranked) occurrence of the globally vulnerable (G3/S3) *Hesperostipa neomexicana* Great Plains mixed grass prairie, and a fair (C-ranked) occurrence of the globally vulnerable (G3/S3) Arkansas Valley evening primrose (*Oenothera harringtonii*). Significant communities include a fair to poor (CD-ranked) occurrence of the globally imperiled to secure (G2G4/S3) *Bouteloua gracilis* - *Pleuraphis jamesii* shortgrass prairie, and a good to fair (BC-ranked) occurrence of the state rare (G5/S3) *Distichlis spicata* salt meadows.

Other Values Rank No Data

Other Values Comments

No Data

LAND MANAGEMENT ISSUES

Land Use Comments

The current livestock grazing regimes appear compatible with the continued viability of the biological resources. Manage the site to prevent direct physical destruction of the habitat. Appropriate timing and intensity of grazing may be a valuable and necessary management tool.

Natural Hazard Comments

No Data

Exotics Comments

No Data

Offsite

No Data

Information Needs

The community elements, as well as *Artemisia biglovii* shrubland types, occur throughout the area. Further inventory could locate additional occurrences nearby. Very little is known about the role of fire in these types. Additional research into the role and effects of fire is needed.

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>
17188	<i>Distichlis spicata</i> Herbaceous Vegetation	Salt Meadows	G5	S3	No
24511	<i>Bouteloua gracilis</i> - <i>Pleuraphis jamesii</i> Herbaceous Vegetation	Shortgrass Prairie	G2G4	S3	No
22673	<i>Hesperostipa neomexicana</i> Herbaceous Vegetation	Great Plains Mixed Grass Prairie	G3	S3	Yes
19476	<i>Oenothera harringtonii</i>	Arkansas Valley evening primrose	G3	S3	No

REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
195120	Friedman, Paul D. 1985. Final Report of History and Oral History Studies of the Fort Carson Pinon Canyon Maneuver Area, Las Animas, Colorado. USDI. National Park Service, Interagency Archaeological Services Branch, Rocky Mountain Regional Office, Denver, CO.
195121	HPRCC. 2008. High Plains Regional Climate Center Web Page. Based on data from automated weather stations operated by Colorado for southeastern Colorado area. High Plains Regional Climate Center Web Page: < http://www.hprcc.unl.edu >
195097	Stevens, J., J. Sovell, D. Culver, K. Decker, L. Grunau, A. Lavender, and C. Gaughan. 2008. Final Report: Southeastern Colorado Survey of Critical Biological Resources 2007. Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Fort Collins, CO.
192747	Tweto, O. 1979. Geologic Map of Colorado, 1:500,000. United States Geological Survey, Department of Interior, and Geologic Survey of Colorado, Denver, CO.
193653	U.S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service. 1994. State Soil Geographic (STATSGO) database for Colorado. Fort Worth, TX.

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ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

Original site design by Pague, C.A. and C.C. Fleming 1997-06-12.

VERSION

Version Date 04/02/2008

Version Author Stevens, J.E.

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