

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Two Buttes Reservoir

Site Code S.USCOHP*012

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 594 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>
2658	S.USCOHP*27934	Comanche

LOCATORS

Nation United States Latitude 373808N
State Colorado Longitude 1023412W

<u>Quad Code</u>	<u>Quad Name</u>
37102-F5	Two Buttes Reservoir
37102-E5	Horse Creek Springs

County

Prowers (CO)

Baca (CO)

<u>Watershed Code</u>	<u>Watershed Name</u>
11020013	Two Butte

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	4,133.00 Feet	1,259.74 Meters
Maximum Elevation	4,527.00 Feet	1,379.83 Meters

Site Description

[Assal and Sovell 2003] The Two Buttes Reservoir, the surface water of which fluctuates with rainfall, dominates this PCA. At the time of the 2003 visit the reservoir was dry, except for the area immediately upstream of the dam where there is a stand of Plains Cottonwood Riparian Woodland ((*Populus deltoides* ssp. *Monilifera*-(*Salix amygdaloides*)/*Salix exigua*)). There are many ruderal species in this PCA probably resulting from the disturbance associated with the reservoir and its campsite. There is a fair amount of cottonwood cover along the shoreline, with shortgrass prairie and interspersed shrubs occupying the majority of the upland portion of the PCA. Red-three awn, buffalograss, black grama, yucca, and slimflower scurf-pea dominate the upland growth forms. Slopes of the PCA vary from 2-10% and sandy loam soils are dominant within the PCA. In other parts of the PCA the plant community is shrubland, dominated by sand sagebrush and yucca. In these areas western wheatgrass and cheatgrass dominate the graminoid layer, while kochia is the dominant forb. This PCA was drawn for great Plains Mixed Grass Prairie (*Schizachrium scoparium*-*Bouteloua curtipendula*), but this was not the dominant vegetative type in 2003. The Colorado Green Gentian (*Frasera coloradensis*) is also recorded from the PCA, but was not observed in 2003. There is also an old Bald Eagle nest recorded within this PCA, which also was not observed in 2003. A large black-tailed prairie dog colony of over 200 individuals lies just east of the reservoir and PCA in an area of shortgrass prairie dominated by buffalograss and three awn.

Key Environmental Factors

No Data

Climate Description

No Data

Land Use History

[Assal and Sovell 2003] Traditional ranchland, but grazing has not occurred in the area in some time.

Cultural Features

No Data

SITE DESIGN

Site Map P - Partial Mapped Date 05/01/1991
Designer Reid, M.

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes known element occurrences and some potential habitat with at least a 0.5 kilometer buffer.

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Primary Area 3,849.80 Acres

1,557.97 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

The site supports a fair (C-ranked) occurrence of the globally imperiled (G2G3) Colorado green gentian (*Frasera coloradensis*), a fair to poor (CD-ranked) occurrence of the globally vulnerable (G3/S2) Great Plains mixed grass prairies community *Schizachyrium scoparium - Bouteloua curtipendula*, a fair (C-ranked) occurrence of the plains cottonwood riparian woodland (*Populus deltoides - (Salix amygdaloides) / Salix (exigua interior)*) and an extant occurrence of Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) (G5/S1B). Overall, this is a degraded site.

Other Values Rank No Data

Other Values Comments

No Data

LAND MANAGEMENT ISSUES

Land Use Comments

The area north of the reservoir is a State Wildlife Area with heavy recreational use (hunting and fishing). This activity along with the campground have degraded the PCA from its pristine state. The area does not appear to be grazed much, if at all. The *Frasera coloradensis* seems to thrive on disturbance short of complete trampling and the riparian woodland, although degraded, persists. The high recreational use, however, has probably resulted in the Bald Eagle abandoning the PCA as a nesting site.

Natural Hazard Comments

No Data

Exotics Comments

No Data

Offsite

No Data

Information Needs

[1994:] Get information from Janet Coles on why this site was rejected as a State Natural Area.

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>
24419	<i>Frasera coloradensis</i>	Colorado green gentian	G2G3	S2S3	Yes
24967	<i>Schizachyrium scoparium - Bouteloua curtipendula</i> Western Great Plains Herbaceous Vegetation	Great Plains Mixed Grass Prairies (Sandstone/Gravel Breaks)	G3	S2	No
21249	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	Bald Eagle	G5	S1B,S3N	No
24670	<i>Populus deltoides - (Salix amygdaloides) / Salix (exigua, interior)</i> Woodland	Plains Cottonwood Riparian Woodland	G3G4	S3	No

REFERENCES

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

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date	05/01/1991
Version Author	Reid, M.

Disclaimer

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