

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Upper Ralston Creek

Site Code S.USCOHP1*1933

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 516 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 395042N
State Colorado Longitude 1051923W
Quad Code Quad Name
39105-G3 Ralston Buttes
County

Watershed Code Watershed Name
10190004 Clear

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation - Feet - Meters
Maximum Elevation - Feet - Meters

Site Description

The Upper Ralston Creek site, adjacent to Golden Gate State Park, includes a very rugged and remote section of Ralston Creek and the surrounding hillsides. The riparian vegetation is dominated by a mixture of birch, alder, blue spruce, maple, and aspen. This riparian area is in good condition and shows little sign of human interference. The adjacent slopes are steep near the creek but become more gentle with distance. A Douglas-fir - ponderosa pine forest dominates the hillside with occasional large patches of mountain mahogany and grasses. The forest can be extremely dense in places (a sign of past logging), but has been thinned out in others due to spruce bud worm and pine beetle kills. The areas that are less densely forested have a more diverse understory and herbaceous layer. Two small patches of wetlands exist, one in the southwest and the other in the southeast, both dominated by Carex spp. due to the variety of habitats. This area has a high species richness in both plants and butterflies. Eighteen species of butterflies were observed (none were rare) hilltopping just upslope from the foothill ponderosa pine savanna location.

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 09/12/1994
Designer Pague, C.A.

Boundary Justification

Includes the pristine section of Ralston Creek, the adjacent slopes, and all known areas with significant plant associations.

Primary Area 1,553.83 Acres 628.82 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B4: Moderate Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site supports a fair to poor (CD-ranked) occurrence of a globally imperiled (G1G2/S1S2) *Hesperostipa comata* Great Plains mixed grass prairie, and a good to fair (BC-ranked) occurrence of a globally vulnerable

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(G3/S3) plant community, *Pinus ponderosa* / *Leucopoa kingii*.

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>
24703	<i>Hesperostipa comata</i> Colorado Front Range Herbaceous Vegetation	Great Plains Mixed Grass Prairie	G1G2	S1S2	Yes
24756	<i>Pinus ponderosa</i> / <i>Leucopoa kingii</i> Woodland	Foothills Ponderosa Pine Savannas	G3	S3	Yes

REFERENCES

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

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date 09/12/1994

Version Author Pague, C.A.

Disclaimer

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