

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Vermejo Park

Site Code S.USCOHP*10603

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 1960 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 370030N
State Colorado Longitude 1044916W

Quad Code Quad Name
37104-A7 Little Pine Canyon

County
Las Animas (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name
11020010 Purgatoire

SITE DESCRIPTION

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

Site Description

This site is a dry, flat bench at the top of north and south facing slopes, dominated by ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) with small openings containing big bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*). Adjacent north facing slopes are Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) forests. South facing slopes are characterized by Gambel oak (*Quercus gambellii*) thickets. Soil is sandy and well drained. Bedrock consists of the Raton Formation. Slope bases are degraded by livestock grazing, but upland areas are in good condition. North-facing slopes show evidence of logging. This site covers approximately 200 acres.

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 12/01/1997
Designer Carney, J.

Boundary Justification

This site is naturally delineated by the ridge top it occupies. Boundaries enclose the flat area plus gentle slopes that form the perimeter of the site. These boundaries may allow for the use of fire for thinning the forest to preserve the community; fire spreads less easily on flat terrain than on steep slopes. Selective cutting that reduces fuel loads on adjacent slopes may be a useful precursor to any prescribed burning. Boundaries extend downslope to help protect against changes in plant species composition following disturbance to adjacent slopes.

Primary Area 139.47 Acres 56.44 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site contains a C-ranked occurrence of a G2 plant community. The plant community is in fair condition and the surrounding area is relatively undisturbed, compared to much of the study area. This is the best occurrence of this community identified in the Upper Purgatoire River watershed study area west of Trinidad, Colorado during the 1997 field season.

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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>
24587	<i>Pinus ponderosa</i> / <i>Cercocarpus montanus</i> / <i>Andropogon gerardii</i> Wooded Herbaceous Vegetation	Foothills Ponderosa Pine Scrub Woodlands	G2	S2?	Yes

REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
160503	Carney, J., and J. Hobert. 1997. Colorado Natural Heritage Program Field Survey for the Upper Purgatoire River Inventory.

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date 12/01/1997

Version Author Carney, J.

Disclaimer

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