

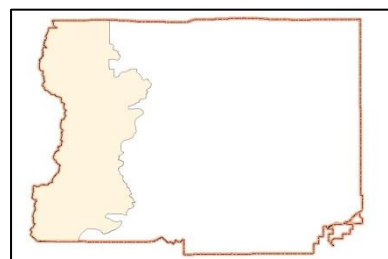
Environmental Conservation Area #1

Common Name: Indian Peaks

Location (General): East of the Continental Divide, bounded by the county line to the north and south, west of SH72 and SH7

Size: 112,344 acres

Life Zones: Upper Montane, Sub-alpine, Alpine.



Indian Peaks ECA location within Boulder County.

Rationale and Background:

The largest of the Environmental Conservation Areas (ECAs) is centered on the Indian Peaks Wilderness and Rocky Mountain National Park. At 112,344 acres, it represents just over 20% of Boulder County. It is our connection to the Continental Divide, the spine of the Southern Rocky Mountains, and the greater Rocky Mountain National Park ecosystem. It represents the most likely habitat for Lynx and Wolverine in the county. This is the summer home of most of our elk herds and bighorn sheep. Old growth forests, willow carrs, boreal toads, black swifts, twayblades, ice grass, and several species of moonwort are present. For some animals, this is probably their population source area.

Conservation efforts in this area have focused on protecting key ecological components at the lower edge of the ECA: montane parklands and habitat connectors to lower elevations. In the mid-1980s, Lee and Virginia Evans donated a conservation easement on the 650-acre Arapaho Ranch, a montane parkland with important wetlands, grasslands, and transitional elk range, to Colorado Open Lands. BCNA worked with the City of Longmont and Rocky Mountain National Park to help secure greater protection of the Copeland Willow Carr (at 77 acres, it is the largest montane willow carr in the Front Range). The site became designated as a State Natural Area. Boulder County, City of Boulder, and GOCO funds were used to acquire easements or fee title to much of Caribou Ranch, another significant montane parkland. Near where the South St. Vrain Creek crosses the peak-to-Peak Highway, a group of property owners (Benedict, Welch, Goodnow, McKenna, Schmoll, and others) have donated conservation easements to the Nature Conservancy and Boulder County to protect this important parkland and habitat connectors between the Indian Peaks, South St. Vrain, and Walker Mountain ECAs.

In the late 1980s, Boulder County Nature Association supported, both financially and with volunteers, a study of the movements of the Winiger Ridge elk herd. One of the outcomes of the study was the recognition of the importance of Reynolds Ranch and surrounding lands along Magnolia Road to animal movement between Winiger Ridge and the Arapaho Ranch and Indian Peaks. Boulder County has acquired Reynolds Ranch and some of the surrounding lands in part to better conserve this wildlife movement corridor.

Caribou Flats and Park have long been recognized as significant sites for a number of rare plants and butterflies. It also contains some large subalpine willow carrs. A cooperative management effort between the US Forest Service City, the city of Boulder Utilities, and several recreation groups have helped to reduce damage from off-road vehicles.

Naturalness: Largest roadless area in the county. Most is designated Wilderness Area. Contains Copeland Willow Carr Natural Area.

Quality and Uniqueness: Largest quantity of old-growth forests. Tundra. Montane parklands. High number of significant wetlands. Habitat for Greenback Cutthroat Trout. Summer Elk concentration areas. Several Elk-calving areas. Important movement corridors for large-mammals in both east/west and north/south directions.

Restoration Potential: All efforts to limit or reverse habitat fragmentation should be pursued.

Key Facts:

Boulder County Designations	Count
Critical Wildlife Habitats:	33
Rare Plant Areas:	61
High Biodiversity Areas:	30
Natural Areas (B1-B3):	Yes
Natural Landmarks:	Yes

USFS Designations	Acres
Backcountry Recreation	13,552
Intermix	8,780
Dispersed Recreation	5,163
Wilderness	4,416
Forested Flora and Fauna Habitats	4,317
Backcountry Recreation-Motorized	3,482
Scenery	3,236
Developed Recreation Complexes	2,622
Special Interest Areas-Emphasizing Use or Interpretation	1,061
Ski-Based Resorts	386

Other Designations

City of Boulder Watershed
 Wild Basin Area, Rocky Mountain National Park, National Park Service
 Niwot Ridge, Long Term Ecological Research Station, CU Boulder
 Peak-to-Peak Scenic and Historic Byway, State of Colorado, DOT

Year Established: 1995

Year Revised: 2013

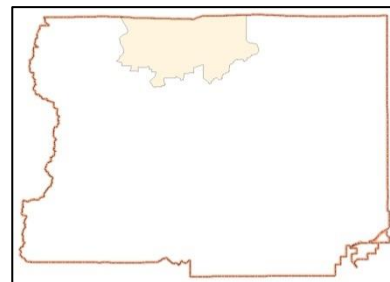
Environmental Conservation Area #2

Common Name: North Saint Vrain

Location (General): West of the town of Lyons, south of the Boulder County border, north of South St. Vrain Dr., east of SH7

Size (acres): 38,133 acres

Life Zones: Lower Montane, Upper Montane, Sub-alpine.



North Saint Vrain ECA location within Boulder County.

Rationale and Background:

The largest foothills to montane ECAs are centered on the North St. Vrain and South St. Vrain Canyons. This ECA represents some of the best roadless foothill habitat along the Front Range. This area contains old-growth ponderosa pine forests, elk winter concentration areas, golden eagle nest sites, and good habitat for mountain lion and black bear. The North St. Vrain is a bighorn sheep concentration area, a designated Wild Trout Stream, and contains a sizeable population of the rare plant Larimer aletes. This ECA also contains imperiled plant communities comprised of foothill grass and shrub species that have been degraded over much of the West.

During the mid-1980s conservation efforts were focused on preserving this area from additional degradation. A proposal to place a dam and reservoir along the North St. Vrain between North and South Sheep Mountains spearheaded an effort, largely through the work of BCNA's Mike Figgs, to recognize the ecological importance of the canyon and to stop the potential of any new main stem dams on the creek. Local citizens and conservation groups worked to conserve private lands within these areas. The Nature Conservancy purchased Sheep Mountain Ranch, located in the heart of the North St. Vrain Canyon, until federal funds were available as a Forest Service acquisition. The 700-acre Riverside Ranch, located west of Coffintop Mountain, was deeded to Boulder County Open Space after the property owner transferred the development rights to a more acceptable receiving area. The Boulder County Land Trust was actively talking with a number of the large ranch owners in both of the canyons. Boulder County has purchased Open Space and conservation easements on many of these lands. Conservation easements were purchased on the Trevarton Ranch, located west of North Foothills Highway, and the Lillian Trevarton Ranch east of Meeker Park. The final large county acquisitions were the purchases of the Hall Ranch and Heil Valley Ranch. With these acquisitions, the lower portions of the North St. Vrain and South St. Vrain ECAs have been conserved.

The update of the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forest Plan helped increase the protection of these areas. Much of the North St. Vrain ECA was designated as a Research Natural Area. This designation has increased the level of conservation placed on the canyons of north-central Boulder County.

Naturalness: Largest foothills/montane roadless area in county.

Quality and Uniqueness: Largest stands of old-growth Ponderosa pine/Douglas fir. Golden Eagle nest sites. Wild trout stream. Elk critical winter range, winter concentration areas and calving areas. Bighorn Sheep concentration area. Area is considered good habitat for Mountain Lion and Black Bear due to montane/foothills habitat, size and high degree of naturalness. Excellent riparian habitat along North St. Vrain Creek. Important east/west large mammal movement corridor. Prairie Dog colony.

Restoration Potential: All efforts to limit or reverse habitat fragmentation should be pursued.

Key Facts:

<u>Boulder County Designations</u>	<u>Count</u>
Critical Wildlife Habitats:	7
Rare Plant Areas:	14
High Biodiversity Areas (B1-B3):	4
Natural Areas:	Yes
Natural Landmarks:	Yes

<u>USFS Designations</u>	<u>Acres</u>
Forested Flora and Fauna Habitats	11203
Core Habitat Area	5584
Research Natural Area	5277
Dispersed Recreation	3595
Intermix	2981
Scenery	2112
Core Habitat Area	733

Other Designations:

Button Rock Preserve and Ralph Price Reservoir, City of Longmont
Wild Trout Water, Colorado Parks and Wildlife

Year Established: 1995

Year Revised: 2013

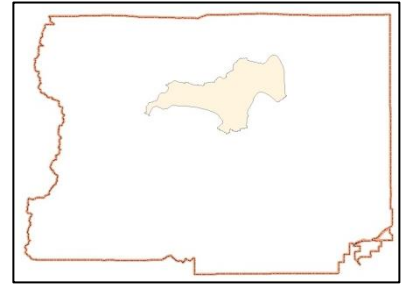
Environmental Conservation Area #3

Common Name: South Saint Vrain and Foothills

Location (General): West of N 51st St., south of South St. Vrain Dr., North of Lefthand Canyon Dr.

Size (acres): 25,929 acres

Life Zones: Plains, Lower Montane, Upper Montane.



South Saint Vrain and Foothills ECA location within Boulder County.

Rationale and Background:

The largest foothills to montane ECAs are centered on the North St. Vrain and South St. Vrain Canyons. This ECA represents some of the best roadless foothill habitat along the Front Range. This area contains old-growth ponderosa pine forests, elk winter concentration areas, golden eagle nest sites, and good habitat for mountain lion and black bear. This ECA contains imperiled plant communities comprised of foothill grass and shrub species that have been degraded over much of the West. Local citizens and conservation groups worked towards protection of private lands within this area. Boulder County has acquired conservation easements and Open Space on this area which has increased the conservation of its outstanding ecological values.

The update of the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forest Plan helped increase the protection of these areas. The Central Gulch portion of the South St. Vrain was designated as Core Area. This designation has increased the level of conservation placed on the canyons of north-central Boulder County.

Naturalness: Roadless areas exist in Central Gulch and South St. Vrain Canyon.

Quality and Uniqueness: Elk critical winter range, winter concentration areas and calving areas. Golden Eagle nest sites. Small areas of old-growth ponderosa pine/Douglas fir. Area is considered good habitat for Mountain Lion and Black Bear due to montane/foothills habitat, size and high degree of naturalness. Important east/west large-mammal movement corridor. Prairie Dog colony.

Restoration Potential: All efforts to limit or reverse habitat fragmentation should be pursued.

Key Facts:

Boulder County Designations	Count
Critical Wildlife Habitats:	16
Rare Plant Areas:	44
High Biodiversity Area (B1-B3)s:	6
Natural Areas:	Yes
Natural Landmarks:	Yes

<u>USFS Designations</u>	<u>Acres</u>
Core Habitat Area	5397
Forested Flora and Fauna Habitats	3637
Scenery	2633
Dispersed Recreation	2347
Intermix	2297

Other Designations:

None

Year Established: 1995

Year Revised: 2013

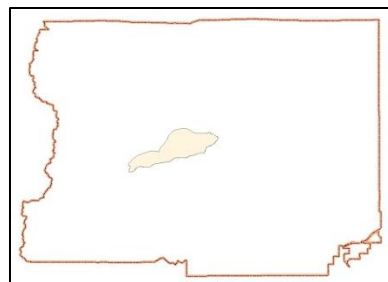
Environmental Conservation Area #4

Common Name: Walker Mountain

Location (General): West of James Canyon Dr., south of Jamestown, North of Lefthand Canyon Dr., east of the town of Ward

Size (acres): 9234 acres

Life Zones: Lower Montane, Upper Montane, Sub-alpine.



Walker Mountain ECA location within Boulder County.

Rationale and Background:

This ECA is located in the heart of Boulder County's mineral belt, while having some fragmentation, it contains significant ecological qualities along with geographic importance.

The Walker Mountain ECA is generally located south of Jamestown, north of Lefthand Canyon, east of the intersections of James Canyon Dr. and Lefthand Canyon, and west of Ward. It contains several roadless areas, stands of old growth ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir, an elk winter concentration area, and a high quality riparian area along Spring Gulch. Local citizens have worked to conserve the water quality of James Creek and the forest ecosystems surrounding it and to reduce fragmentation by closing some roads to James Creek. These efforts have also worked to close social trails by unauthorized motorized recreation in the Walker Mountain area. Several of the property owners south of Overland Road and along the Peak-to-Peak Highway have donated conservation easements to The Nature Conservancy. These easements protect an important animal movement corridor linking Walker Mountain ECA to the Indian Peaks. Boulder County has acquired several inholdings within the ECA to further reduce fragmentation.

Naturalness: Roadless areas exist on east flank of Nugget Hill, north flank of Walker Mountain and between spring Gulch and Gold Lake.

Quality and Uniqueness: Elk critical range and winter concentration areas. Old-growth ponderosa pine/Douglas fir. Spring Gulch is considered high quality riparian/wetland habitat. Important east/west large-mammal movement corridor.

Restoration Potential: All efforts to limit or reverse habitat fragmentation should be pursued.

Key Facts:

Boulder County Designations	Count	Acres
Critical Wildlife Habitats:	0	
Rare Plant Areas:	0	
High Biodiversity Area (B1-B3)s:	3	
Natural Areas:	No	
Natural Landmarks:	No	

<u>USFS Designations</u>	<u>Acres</u>
Forested Flora and Fauna Habitats	5440
Intermix	2292
Private	539
Dispersed Recreation	537
Intermix	5

Other Designations:

None

Year Established: 1995

Year Revised: 2013

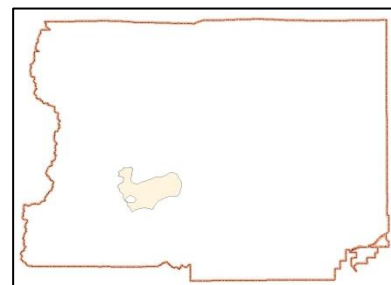
Environmental Conservation Area #5

Common Name: Fourmile Creek and Bald Mountain

Location (General): West of Dixon Rd., south of Gold Hill Rd., north of Sugarloaf Rd., east of SH72

Size (acres): 8,451 acres

Life Zones: Lower Montane, Upper Montane, Sub-alpine.



Fourmile Creek and Bald Mountain ECA
location within Boulder County.

Rationale and Background:

Three ecologically significant areas anchor Fourmile Creek/Bald Mountain ECA. Bald Mountain (the one along the Switzerland Trail railroad grade road) is a Colorado Natural Heritage Program (CNHP) Element Occurrence of Foothills Ponderosa Pine Savannah, as well as several other types of montane grassland. Todd Gulch Fen, located along the Gold Hill Road, is a highly biodiverse area. The third area is a one mile stretch of Fourmile Creek between Sunset and the Peak-to-Peak Highway that is roadless and trailless. This ECA faces some challenges from unauthorized motorized recreation.

Naturalness: Roadless area exists along Fourmile Creek west of Sunset. Much of landscape, except for Fourmile Canyon Road and Switzerland Trail, is steep and roadless.

Quality and Uniqueness: Elk critical winter range. Old-growth ponderosa pine, Douglas fir and Lodgepole pine. Important east/west large-mammal movement corridor.

Restoration Potential: All efforts to limit or reverse habitat fragmentation should be pursued.

Key Facts:

Boulder County Designations	Count
Critical Wildlife Habitats:	1
Rare Plant Areas:	10
High Biodiversity Areas (B1-B3):	4
Natural Areas:	No
Natural Landmarks:	Yes

USFS Designations	Acres
Dispersed Recreation	4663
Forested Flora and Fauna Habitats	2122
Scenery	557
Private	357
Intermix	489
Special Interest Areas-Emphasizing Use or Interpretation	100

Other Designations:

None

Year Established: 1995

Year Revised: 2013

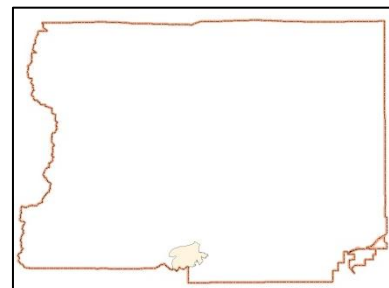
Environmental Conservation Area #6

Common Name: Winiger Ridge

Location (General): West of Gross Res., south of Flagstaff Rd., north of the Boulder County border, east of Magnolia Dr.

Size (acres): 3,460 acres

Life Zones: Lower Montane, Upper Montane.



Winiger Ridge ECA location within Boulder County.

Rationale and Background:

The Winiger Ridge ECA is an area which has received significant conservation and restoration. Winiger Ridge has long been known as an important wintering area and movement corridor for elk. The area contains two important Foothill Riparian areas along South Boulder Creek (above Gross Reservoir) and Winiger Gulch, both recognized as highly biodiverse regions. The US Forest Service has been working to control unauthorized motorized recreation.

Due to significant efforts by private citizens and the US Forest Service, the area between Winiger Gulch and South Boulder Creek serves as an effective core preserve.

Naturalness: Roadless area in South Boulder Creek Canyon west of Gross Reservoir. Winiger Ridge is closed to motorized vehicles during winter.

Quality and Uniqueness: Elk critical winter range and winter concentration area. Old-growth Ponderosa pine/Douglas fir. Important east/west large-mammal movement corridor.

Restoration Potential: All efforts to limit or reverse habitat fragmentation should be pursued.

Key Facts:

<u>Boulder County Designations</u>	<u>Count</u>
Critical Wildlife Habitats:	1
Rare Plant Areas:	0
High Biodiversity Areas (B1-B3):	1
Natural Areas:	No
Natural Landmarks:	Yes

<u>USFS Designations</u>	<u>Acres</u>
Forested Flora and Fauna Habitats	3425

Other Designations:

Year Established: 1995

Year Revised: 2013

Environmental Conservation Area #7

Common Name: Hawkin Gulch/Walker Ranch/Upper Eldorado Canyon

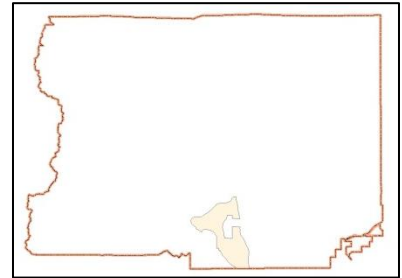
Location (General): West of Eldorado Springs, south of Boulder Canyon Dr., north of the Boulder County border, east of Gross Res.

Size (acres): 10,185 acres

Life Zones: Lower Montane, Upper Montane.

Rationale and Background:

This ECA acts to conserve critical resources in the south-central part of the County. This area contains a multitude of significant plants, plant communities, and wildlife and provides an important mountain to prairie link.



Hawkin Gulch/Walker Ranch/Upper Eldorado Canyon ECA location within Boulder County.

Walker Ranch is at the center of the Hawkin Gulch/Walker Ranch/Upper Eldorado Canyon ECA and occurs within an area which initially acquired as Boulder County Open Space. It provides important winter range for elk. The western portion of this ECA, centered on Twin Sisters, is a critical migration corridor for elk and other large mammals; this site became an important habitat connector due to the creation of Gross Reservoir in the 1950s, which is an effective barrier to east-west movement of animals in this part of the county. The canyons and gulches between Flagstaff Drive, Boulder Canyon and Magnolia Road, including Hawkin, Keystone, and Calhoun Gulches, are wild and rugged areas. Upper Eldorado Canyon is another wild and rugged region. Ownership is mixed between Eldorado Canyon State Park and Boulder County Open Space. Running through this area is South Boulder Creek. It is one of the few roadless foothill creeks in the county, the others being Fourmile Canyon Creek and the North St. Vrain Creek. All of the others, including Boulder Creek, Fourmile Creek (the Fourmile Creek that heads to Sunset), Lefthand Creek, James Creek, and South St. Vrain Creek, are impacted by adjacent roads.

Naturalness: Several roadless areas in Hawkin Gulch, south half of Walker Ranch, South Draw, Johnson Gulch, Keystone Gulch and Twin Sisters Peak.

Quality and Uniqueness: Elk critical winter range and winter concentration area. Old-growth ponderosa pine/Douglas fir. Area is considered good habitat for Mountain Lion and Black Bear due to foothills habitat, size and high degree of naturalness. Important east/west and north/south large-mammal movement corridor.

Restoration Potential: All efforts to limit or reverse habitat fragmentation should be pursued.

Key Facts:

<u>Boulder County Designations</u>	<u>Count</u>
Critical Wildlife Habitats:	4
Rare Plant Areas:	64
High Biodiversity Areas (B1-B3):	1
Natural Areas:	Yes
Natural Landmarks:	Yes

<u>USFS Designations</u>	<u>Acres</u>
Forested Flora and Fauna Habitats	2135
Intermix	73

Other Designations:

Eldorado Canyon State Park, State of Colorado

Year Established: 1995

Year Revised: 2013

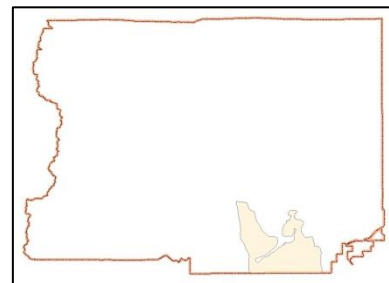
Environmental Conservation Area #8

Common Name: Boulder Mountain Park and South Boulder

Location (General): West of McCaslin Blvd., south of US36, north of the Boulder County border, east of Eldorado Springs

Size (acres): 19,443 acres

Life Zones: Plains, Lower Montane.



Boulder Mountain Park and South Boulder ECA location within Boulder County.

Rationale and Background:

This ECA acts to conserve critical resources in the south-central part of the County. It contains a multitude of significant plants, plant communities, and wildlife and provides an important mountain to prairie link.

The canyons and peaks of the Mountain Parks are very diverse floristically, harboring a number of rare plants, including dwarf wild indigo, paper birch, Rocky Mountain sedge, broad-leafed twayblade, white adder's-mouth, pictureleaf wintergreen, and Weatherby's spike-moss. Nesting sites of golden eagles, prairie falcons, and peregrine falcons are present in the flatirons and canyons, as well as feeding grounds on the grasslands to the east. These grasslands periodically contain one of the largest prairie dog colonies in Boulder County. Ute ladies'tresses orchid and Preble's meadow jumping mouse are some of the significant biological elements present. Marshall Mesa, Eldorado Springs Canyon, and Tallgrass Prairie are designated Natural Areas. This ECA is now adjacent to the 4,000-acre Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge to the south. The city of Boulder has been working to protect lands in neighboring Jefferson County and represents an important linkage across the county border.

Naturalness: Roadless areas exist within Boulder Mountain Parks, and Open Space areas north and south of Eldorado Springs Road and east of S. Foothills Highway. Area is suitable for additional prairie restoration. Region may present opportunities for reintroduction of extirpated species. Potential for enhancing prairie dog community to replace winter raptor concentration areas located east of McCaslin Blvd.

Quality and Uniqueness: High density of nesting raptors (Golden Eagles, Prairie Falcons, Peregrine Falcon). High concentration of rare plants. Winter raptor concentration area. Good conditioned prairie plant communities. Important east-west and north-south large-mammal movement corridor and elk calving. Significant riparian community along South Boulder Creek and Coal Creek. Prairie Dog Colony.

Restoration Potential: All efforts to limit or reverse habitat fragmentation should be pursued.

Key Facts:

<u>Boulder County Designations</u>	<u>Count</u>
Critical Wildlife Habitats:	14
Rare Plant Areas:	17
High Biodiversity Area (B1-B3)s:	6
Natural Areas:	No
Natural Landmarks:	Yes

<u>USFS Designations</u>	<u>Acres</u>
---------------------------------	---------------------

None

Other Designations:

Eldorado Canyon State Park, State of Colorado

Year Established: 1995

Year Revised: 2013

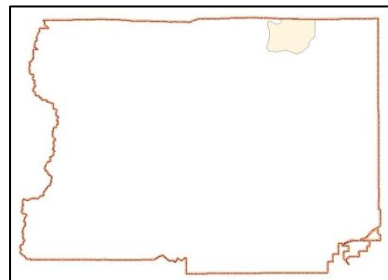
Environmental Conservation Area #9

Common Name: Rabbit Mountain

Location (General): West N 75th St., south of the Boulder County border, north of SH66, east of the town of Lyons

Size (acres): 7831 acres

Life Zones: Plains, Lower Montane.



Rabbit Mountain ECA location within Boulder County.

Rationale and Background:

This Environmental Conservation Area in the north-central portion of the county has been mostly acquired as Boulder County Open Space or conversation easement. The purpose of these acquisitions has been for the primary purpose of habitat conservation for the natural resources it contains. This area represents one of the highest biodiversity regions in the county and exists in a relatively unfragmented condition.

Rabbit Mountain is a unique eastward extension of the foothills. It contains several imperiled plant communities that include ponderosa pine, mountain mahogany and several prairie grasses. It has a long-established and successful Golden Eagle nesting territory and supports a highly diverse avian community. A population of the rare Bell's twinpod is found there. The ECA is a concentration area for raptors during the winter due to the presence of prairie dogs on Dowe Flats and many other small mammal species on Rabbit Mountain. Several herds of mule deer use the property, some for winter range, as do white-tailed deer and occasionally elk.

Naturalness: Roadless areas exist on the existing Boulder County Open Space.

Quality and Uniqueness: Winter raptor concentration area. Significant Prairie dog colony. Golden eagle nesting territory. Fair quality ponderosa pine/shrub/grass community. Large Bell's Twinpod community. Good riparian habitat along Little Thompson River. Important east-west large-mammal movement corridor.

Restoration Potential: Actions should be taken to increase the amount of restored prairie habitat and to protect the significant shrub communities present in the area. All efforts to limit or reverse habitat fragmentation should be pursued.

Key Facts:

Boulder County Designations	Count
Critical Wildlife Habitats:	1
Rare Plant Areas:	7
High Biodiversity Areas (B1-B3):	2
Natural Areas:	Yes
Natural Landmarks:	Yes

<u>USFS Designations</u>	<u>Acres</u>
None	

Other Designations:
None

Year Established: 1995
Year Revised: 2013

Environmental Conservation Area #10

Common Name: Table Mountain

Location (General): West of N 55th St., south of Nelson Rd., north of Oxford Rd., east of N 41st St.

Size (acres): 1701 acres

Life Zones: Plains

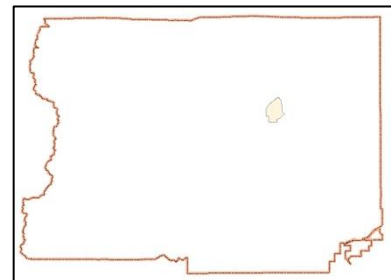


Table Mountain ECA location within Boulder County.

Rationale and Background:

This ECA is located in the central portion of the county and aids in conserving important prairie, wetlands, and habitat connectors linking the foothills to the plains.

The Table Mountain ECA is centered on a 1,700-acre tract of Federal land used as a radar and communications facility. The overall lack of use has helped retain a large block of native midgrass prairie. Boulder County Open Space and the City of Boulder have acquired adjacent and nearby lands and easements in order to expand this ECA and build a habitat connector to the foothills.

Naturalness: Area has some service roads where access is controlled. Is not currently being grazed.

Quality and Uniqueness: Large block of native midgrass prairie.

Restoration Potential: Actions should be taken to retain the existing prairie habitat, as well as enhance existing connectivity with the foothills ECAs. All efforts to limit or reverse habitat fragmentation should be pursued.

Key Facts:

Boulder County Designations	Count	Acres
Critical Wildlife Habitats:	0	
Rare Plant Areas:	0	
High Biodiversity Areas (B1-B3):	1	
Natural Areas:	Yes	
Natural Landmarks:	Yes	

USFS Designations **Acres**

None

Other Designations:

None

Year Established: 1995

Year Revised: 2013

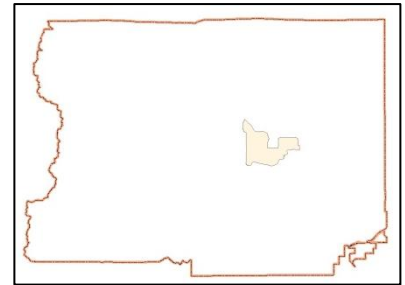
Environmental Conservation Area #11

Common Name: Boulder Valley Ranch and Beech Open Space

Location (General): West of N 63rd St., south of Niwot Rd., North of Lee Hill Dr., east of Lefthand Canyon Dr.

Size (acres): 7,227 acres

Life Zones: Plains, Lower Montane.



Boulder Valley Ranch and Beech Open Space
ECA location within Boulder County.

Rationale and Background:

This ECA is located in the central portion of the county. The area acts to protect important prairie, wetlands, and habitat connectors linking the foothills to the plains.

The Boulder Valley Ranch and Beech Open Space ECA is centered on the two open space properties within its name. It also includes portions of Boulder Reservoir and numerous other open space properties on the north flank of the City of Boulder. This is a winter raptor concentration area, periodically containing a large prairie dog colony. A Northern Harrier nesting site is found within this area. There are significant wetlands and several locations for the rare Bell's twinpod. Northern harriers have historically nested within this ECA, as have burrowing owls. The wetlands and deciduous forests along the west and north sides of Boulder Reservoir are home to a number of rare and vulnerable nesting birds. This ECA spans from the foothills to the plains and can be used as an animal movement corridor. It also contains Six-Mile Fold Natural Area.

Naturalness: Roadless areas exist on Open Space properties. Prairie and wetland restoration potential. Contains Six-Mile Fold Natural Area.

Quality and Uniqueness: Winter raptor concentration area. Significant Prairie dog colony. Significant wetlands. Northern Harrier nesting area. Historic and potential nesting for Burrowing Owl. Several sites for Bell's Twinpod. Important north/south and east/west large-mammal movement corridor.

Restoration Potential: Actions which enhance the function of habitats in this ECA should be a priority, including conservation and preservation of wetlands and other highly-productive habitats which lead to a functional prairie ecosystem. All efforts to limit or reverse habitat fragmentation should be pursued.

Key Facts:

Boulder County Designations	Count	Acres
Critical Wildlife Habitats:	7	
Rare Plant Areas:	2	
High Biodiversity Areas (B1-B3):	1	
Natural Areas:	Yes	
Natural Landmarks:	Yes	

<u>USFS Designations</u>	<u>Acres</u>
None	

Other Designations:
None

Year Established: 1995
Year Revised: 2013

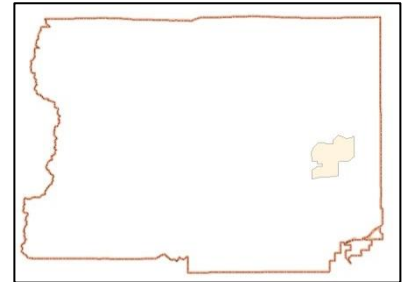
Environmental Conservation Area #12

Common Name: White Rocks and Gunbarrel Hill

Location (General): West of SH287, south of Niwot Rd., north of Valmont Rd., east of N 75th St.

Size (acres): 6,988 acres

Life Zones: Plains.



White Rocks and Gunbarrel Hill ECA
location within Boulder County.

Rationale and Background:

This ECA along with the East County ECA work together to protect critical resources in the east part of the County. Each contains a multitude of significant plants, plant communities, and wildlife. And together they total 15,000 acres, providing an important movement corridor along Boulder Creek and between Boulder and St. Vrain creeks.

The White Rocks/Gunbarrel Hill ECA spans west to east from N75th Street to Highway 287 and north to south between Highway 52 and Valmont Road. The White Rocks and the riparian lands along Boulder Creek form the heart of this area, as does Gunbarrel Hill, which was once a dryland farming area and is now being restored to prairie. The White Rocks contains a number of imperiled plants and animals, including rare ants and ferns. There is a high concentration of nesting raptors, good quality riparian habitat and significant wetlands. Portions of Boulder Creek are being restored by the City of Boulder as meanders are being put back into portions that were straightened. The area contains the White Rocks State Natural Area and the Heron Rookery State Natural Area.

Naturalness: Roadless areas exist on Open Space and private inholdings. Gunbarrel Hill has good potential for prairie restoration. Some of the land is currently in Federal Conservation Reserve Program. Contains White Rocks Natural Area and Heron Rookery Natural Area.

Quality and Uniqueness: The "White Rocks". High concentration of rare plants and animals. High concentration of nesting raptors. Good quality riparian habitat and significant wetlands. Some native prairie. Boulder Creek is important wildlife movement corridor. Prairie Dog colonies.

Restoration Potential: This area has received extensive prairie restoration and has the potential to be a large and functional native prairie habitat in the eastern section of the county. All efforts to limit or reverse habitat fragmentation should be pursued.

Key Facts:

<u>Boulder County Designations</u>	<u>Count</u>
Critical Wildlife Habitats:	6
Rare Plant Areas:	1
High Biodiversity Areas (B1-B3):	1
Natural Areas:	Yes
Natural Landmarks:	No

<u>USFS Designations</u>	<u>Acres</u>
---------------------------------	---------------------

None	
------	--

Other Designations:

None

Year Established: 1995

Year Revised: 2013

Environmental Conservation Area #13

Common Name: East County

Location (General): West of East County Line Rd., north of SH52, south of SH119, east of SR287

Size (acres): 7,819 acres

Life Zones: Plains.



East County ECA location within Boulder County.

Rationale and Background:

This ECA along with the White Rocks and Gunbarrel Hill ECA work together to protect critical resources in the east part of the County. Each contains a multitude of significant plants, plant communities, and wildlife. And together they total 15,000 acres, providing an important movement corridor along Boulder Creek and between Boulder and St. Vrain creeks.

The East County ECA spans north to south between St. Vrain and Boulder Creek, and west to east between Highway 287 and the county line. Much of this area is irrigated farmland, which has been acquired by the County as Open Space or conservation easement. The farmland provides a level of seclusion necessary for several nesting raptors. Some of the ecological features of this ECA include Boulder Creek, Panama Reservoir, Lefthand Creek, and St. Vrain Creek. Great blue herons have a small rookery in this area. Restoration has occurred along some of the riparian corridors and continues to be a conservation priority. The area provides a movement corridor for white-tailed deer between Boulder and St. Vrain Creeks.

Naturalness: The Open Space and Conservation easements acquired by Boulder County have guided land use within this ECA and retained many of the remaining natural features of this area.

Quality and Uniqueness: Reservoir and shoreline vegetation with Great Blue Heron nests. Bald Eagle nesting and habitat. Good quality riparian area and wetlands along St. Vrain Creek and Boulder Creek. Provides north/south wildlife movement corridor in the eastern side of Boulder County.

Restoration Potential: Restoration and conservation activity should be considered which promotes prairie and riparian habitats, or which increases connectivity with the adjacent ECA and riparian corridors. All efforts to limit or reverse habitat fragmentation should be pursued.

Key Facts:

Boulder County Designations	Count	Acres
Critical Wildlife Habitats:	3	
Rare Plant Areas:	0	
High Biodiversity Areas (B1-B3):	0	
Natural Areas:	No	
Natural Landmarks:	No	

<u>USFS Designations</u>	<u>Acres</u>
---------------------------------	---------------------

None	
------	--

Other Designations:

None

Year Established: 1995

Year Revised: 2013

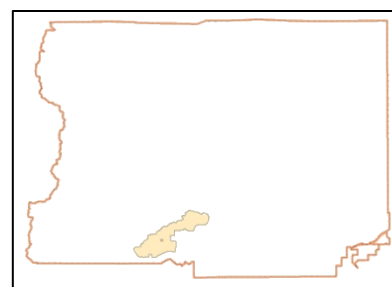
Environmental Conservation Area #14

Common Name: Magnolia

Location (General): East of Nederland, bounded on the north by Boulder Canyon, west of Winiger Ridge and Gross Res.

Size (acres): 7,126 acres

Life Zones: Lower Montane, Upper Montane.



Winiger Ridge ECA location within Boulder County.

Rationale and Background:

The Magnolia ECA is an area which has received significant conservation and restoration by Boulder County Parks and Open Space, the USFS, and others. It is relatively unfragmented by roads and development. Additionally, this area has long been known as an important movement corridor for elk.

This area is also included in the planning area for the Magnolia Environmental Preservation Plan, which seeks to protect the “unique rural qualities, unfragmented habitats, wildlife, scenic and recreational resources” of the Magnolia area.

Naturalness: Relatively undeveloped and unfragmented area east of Barker Res. Much of the area is public land (Boulder County Parks and Open Space, USFS, State of Colorado).

Quality and Uniqueness: High quality plant sites and plant diversity. Old-growth Ponderosa pine/Douglas fir. Important east/west large-mammal movement corridor.

Restoration Potential: All efforts to limit or reverse habitat fragmentation should be pursued.

Key Facts:

<u>Boulder County Designations</u>	<u>Count</u>
Critical Wildlife Habitats:	2
Rare Plant Areas:	26
High Biodiversity Areas (B1-B3):	0
Natural Areas:	No
Natural Landmarks:	Yes

<u>USFS Designations</u>	<u>Acres</u>
Forested Flora and Fauna Habitats	5028
Intermix	1979

Other Designations:

Magnolia Environmental Preservation Plan

Year Established: NEW

Year Revised: 2013