Colorado Natural Areas Program

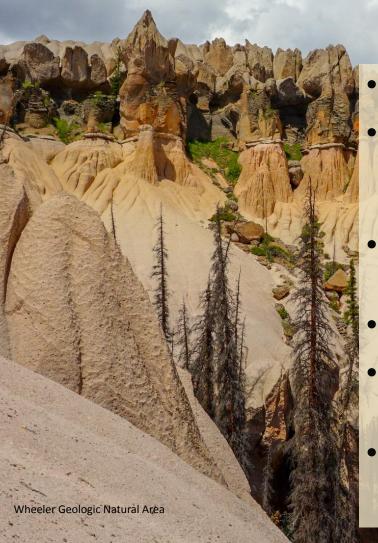








Colorado Program Scope & Structure



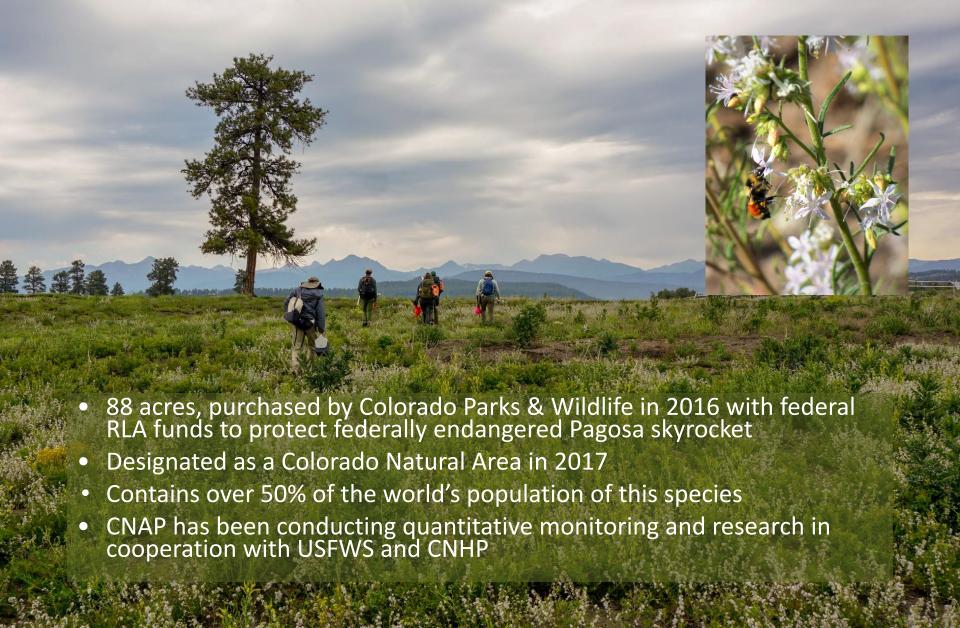
- Program housed within Colorado Parks & Wildlife
- Designation can occur on any land ownership type through a voluntary conservation agreement between the landowner and CNAP/DNR
- 96 designated state natural areas across ~182,000 acres
- 7 member Governor-appointed advisory council
- Staff: 1 full-time permanent staff, 1 temporary technician, 1 dedicated contractor
- Volunteers: 50+ volunteer stewards, volunteer steward program running for 25 years

Colorado's Newest State Natural Area: Coal Creek Tallgrass Prairie

- Designated in 2023, 1458
 acres, owned and
 managed by City of
 Boulder Open Space &
 Mountain Parks
- High quality example of xeric tallgrass prairie
- Designation highlights and helps protect the remnant tallgrass prairie community and its dependent species



Natural Area Highlight: Pagosa Skyrocket

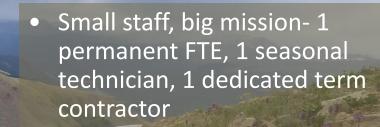


Recent "Wins" and Accomplishments



- CO HB24-1257- reauthorization of the Colorado Natural Areas Council
- New State Natural Area designation and two expansions
- 25 year running volunteer steward program continues to be of exceptional value to CNAP

Program Challenges



- Relevance/value within organizational structureprogram is buried within very large parks and wildlife agency with many competing priorities
- Lack of familiarity with CNAP and confusion on roles between CNAP and CNHP

Hoosier Ridge Natural Area

Emerging Issues- Changes on the Horizon

- Political shift towards biodiversity and species conservation- new legislation directs CPW to study & conserve rare plants and invertebrates
- CNAP has been specifically focused on rare plant conservation for 30+ years, will soon be shifting responsibilities to new dedicated staff
- CNAP utilizing new tools and data to help prioritize future designations



