

From: [Thomas Green](#)
To: [FS-PSICC CCNG Revision](#)
Cc: [Brad Klafehn](#)
Subject: [External Email]Draft Grasslands Assessment comments by the Colorado Native Plant Society
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Greetings,

These comments are from the Colorado Native Plant Society's Conservation Committee. Please feel free to contact me for clarification on these comments or to engage the Society in efforts to protect, study and restore native plants on our public lands.

1. Because there is an absence of suitable Research Natural Areas in the Grasslands, consider constructing "type reference" plots manually for the sand-sage and shortgrass prairies to provide guidance in potential restoration efforts. In addition, establish long-term monitoring plots to accurately determine shifts in community structure, and serve as controls to changes in land-management practices (grazing, fire, invasive treatments, etc), particularly in or near Species of Conservation Concern occurrences.
2. If appropriate, include columns in Appendix C for management priority and recommended action (or alternatively, provide a summary of how the Trends and Threats are to be considered in management plans). How frequently are species reviewed for criteria to be included/excluded from the SCC list?
3. Given the expected climate shift for the region over the next 50 years (+8 degrees warmer with significantly less snow cover and soil moisture availability), what portions of the Grasslands are best suited as potential refugia for species vulnerable to climate stressors in the sand-sage and shortgrass prairies (and should potential refugia receive different management priorities)? How should the assessment address new species immigrating to the Grasslands from warm-adapted assemblages, such as from the Llano-Estacado grasslands or Chihuahuan desert communities?
4. The assessment should clearly emphasize enhancing and maintaining biodiversity as a key strategy for ensuring soil conservation and ecosystem function (and by extension, economic productivity) to compensate for expected environmental stressors.

We appreciate this opportunity to provide comments into the draft assessment and hope we can be of service. Thanks for the hard work of all involved.

Sincerely,
Tom Green - Colorado Native Plant Society volunteer
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