

Meeting Report

NATIONAL NATURAL LANDMARKS COMMITTEE

November 2, 2012

The National Natural Landmarks Committee of the National Park System Advisory Board met by conference call on November 2, 2012. A majority of the committee members participated in the call and were able to cast votes for the sites under consideration for designation.

It is the Committee's unanimous recommendation to the National Park System Advisory Board to recommend the following sites for consideration by the Secretary of Interior for designation as National Natural Landmarks.

- **Wade Tract Preserve, Thomas County, Georgia**
- **Zumwalt Prairie, Wallowa County, Oregon**

In addition, it is the Committee's unanimous recommendation to the National Park System Advisory Board to recommend a boundary expansion for the following existing National Natural Landmark:

- **Garden Park Fossil Area, Fremont County, Colorado.**

Enclosed are the National Natural Landmark Briefs and proposed boundary maps prepared for the above referenced sites.

I would like to thank the committee members, reviewers and staff for their time, commitment and expertise in making this recommendation.

Respectfully submitted,

Belinda Valles Faustinos  
Chair, National Natural Landmarks Committee

cc: National Natural Landmarks Committee

National Park Service

**NATIONAL NATURAL LANDMARKS COMMITTEE**

**Belinda Faustinos** (Committee Chair), Board Member; Executive Officer, San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, Azusa, CA

**Paul Bardacke**, Board Member; Senior Partner, Sutin, Thayer & Browne, PC., Santa Fe, NM

**Honorable Judy Burke**, Board Member; Mayor of Grand Lake, Colorado

**Dr. Sylvia A. Earle**, Marine biologist; Center for Marine Conservation Ambassador for the Ocean; founder and chairman, Deep Ocean Exploration and Research; National Geographic Society Explorer in Residence; Director, Sustainable Sea Expeditions, Oakland, CA

**Dr. John Francis**, Vice President for Research, Conservation and Exploration, National Geographic Society, Washington, DC

**Dr. John W. "Jack" Hess**, Executive Director, Geological Society of America, Boulder, CO

**Dr. Louis L. Jacobs**, Professor, Roy M. Huffington Department of Earth Sciences and President, Institute for the Study of Earth and Man, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX

**Dr. Peter Ravin**, Biologist and Botanist notable as the longtime director, now President Emeritus, of the Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis, MO

## NATIONAL NATURAL LANDMARK BRIEF



**Name:** Wade Tract Preserve

**Location:** Thomas County, Georgia

**Description:** The Wade Tract Preserve, found in the Gulf Coastal Plain Bio-physiographic Province, is one of the last old-growth stands of longleaf pine left in the world. This 206-acre site is the archetypal oldgrowth longleaf pine savanna and may best illustrate what portions of this region looked like at the time of European settlement. Studies from the Wade Tract Preserve frame the contemporary view of pinelands ecology and stand dynamics. It is managed through frequent prescribed burns similar to what would occur naturally, contains an intact pinelands fauna and flora, and is the best remaining remnant longleaf pine landscape. Trees range in age from saplings to well in excess of 300 years old. There is a very good distribution in tree size, indicative of stands that existed in the Southeast at the time of settlement.

**Significance:** The Wade Tract Preserve contains the best example of an old-growth longleaf pine savanna to be found in the Gulf Coastal Plain Bio-physiographic Province of the Southeast.

**Ownership:** Private

**Designation:** Proposed for designation in 2012

**Evaluation:** John S. Kush, Auburn University School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences, 2012





**Legend**

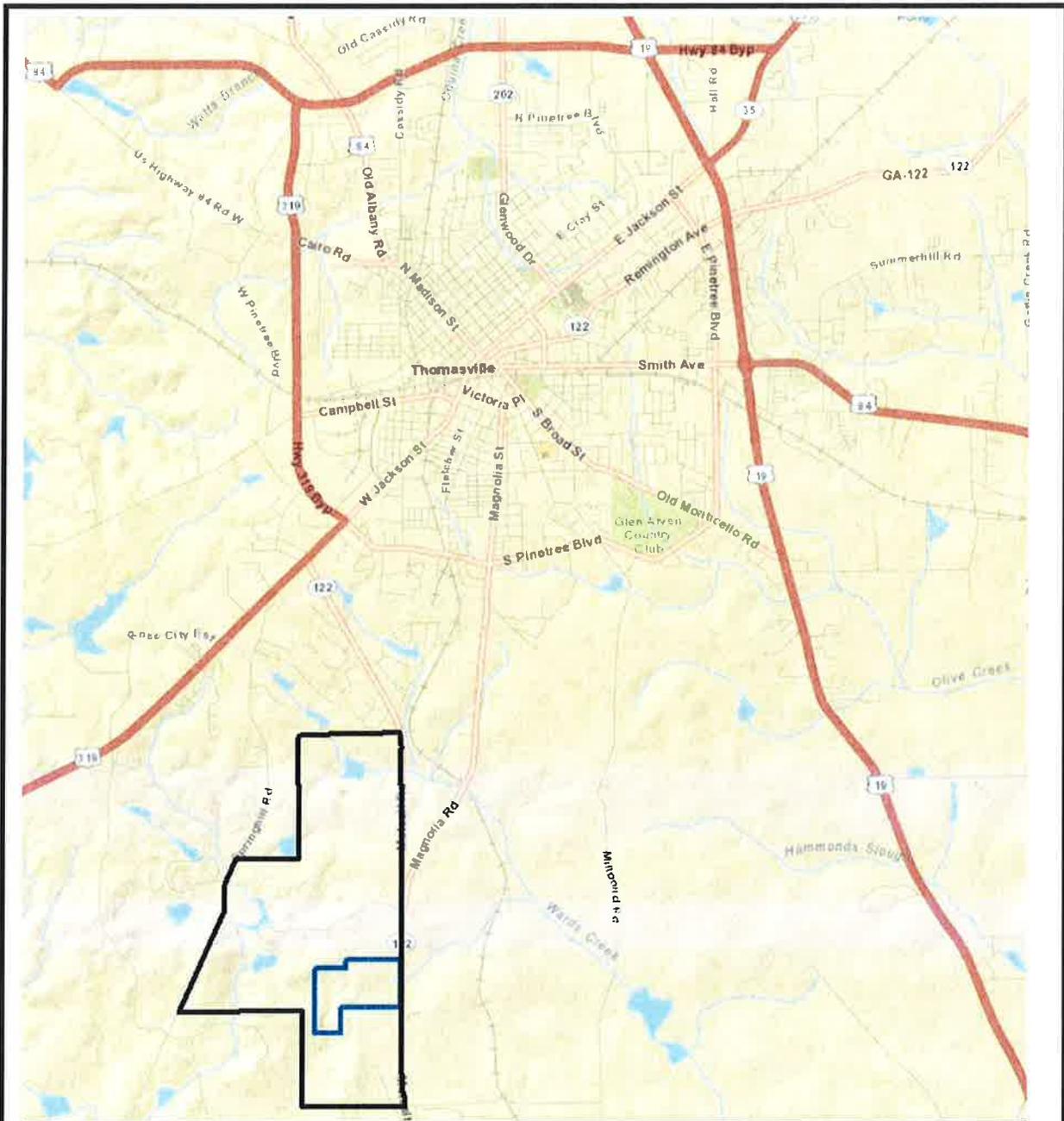
- ★ Wade Tract Preserve
- ▭ Thomas County

0 15 30 60 Miles



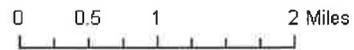
Map produced on August 24, 2012 by John Gilbert, Longleaf Pine Stand Dynamics Laboratory.  
 Projection: UTM, NAD 1983

Location of the Wade Tract Preserve within the state of Georgia



**Legend**

-  Arcadia Plantation
-  Wade Tract



Map produced on August 24, 2012 by John Gilbert, Longleaf Pine Stand Dynamics Laboratory.  
 Data provided by Tall Timbers Research Station  
 Projection: UTM, NAD 1983

**Proposed boundary for Wade Tract Preserve National Natural Landmark**

Proposed National Natural Landmark Designation  
**WADE TRACT PRESERVE, Thomas County, Georgia**

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**Comments received as of November 23, 2012**

- SUPPORT DESIGNATION

Dr. Edward O. Wilson, University Professor Emeritus and Honorary Curator  
In Entomology, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts

- OPPOSE DESIGNATION

None



## NATIONAL NATURAL LANDMARK BRIEF

**Name:** Zumwalt Prairie

**Location:** Wallowa County, Oregon

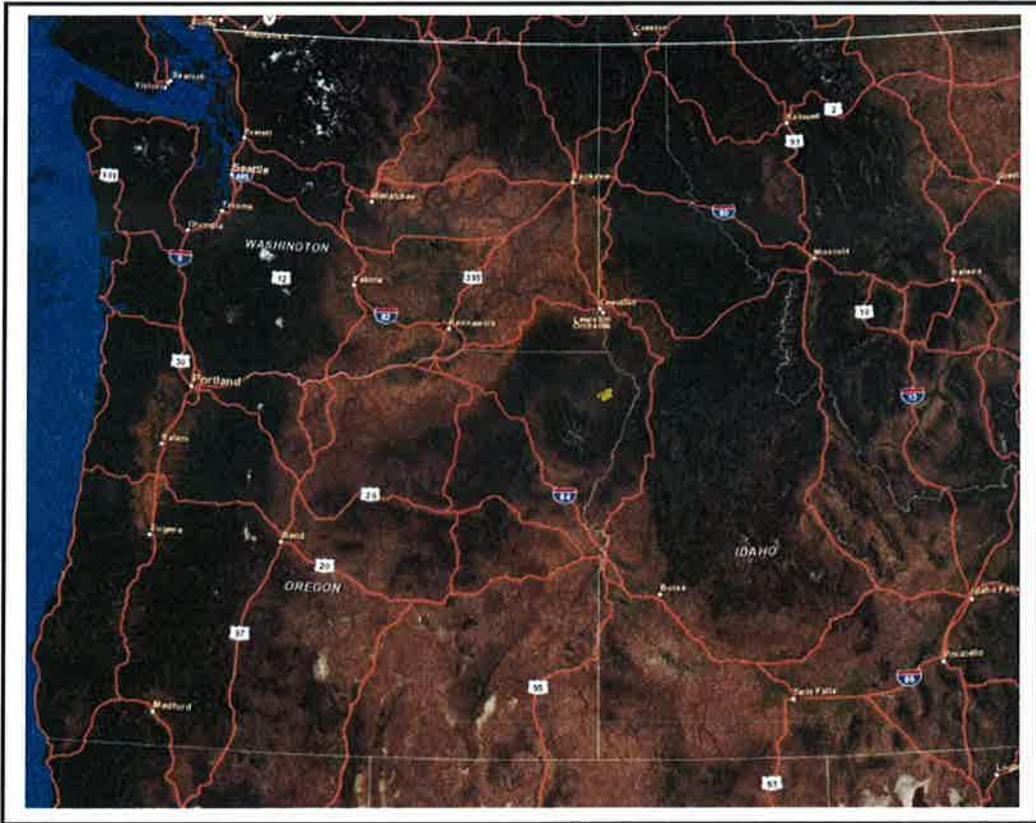
**Description:** Zumwalt Prairie is a 3,793-acre site located 20 miles northeast of Enterprise, Oregon, in the extreme northeastern corner of Oregon. It is part of one of the largest remaining grasslands in North America, containing over 100,000 acres of bunchgrass dominated prairies. The site includes deep loess-soiled prairie, shallow-soiled basalt garlands, biscuit scablands (Mima mound prairie with scablands in the inter-mound areas), talus slopes, basalt cliffs, and gently rolling hills typical of plateau grasslands. It has aspen groves, hawthorn riparian woodlands, sagebrush and snowberry shrublands, bottomland wet grasslands, and many other grassland types which vary with elevation, soils, aspect and slope. As a large, high quality natural area, it supports large populations of deer, elk, cougar, wolves, and part of Oregon's only population of the sharp-tailed grouse.

**Significance:** Zumwalt Prairie is the best example of bunchgrass prairie remaining in North America. It is one of the largest prairie remnants, is in exceptional condition, and is being protected for its natural values by The Nature Conservancy. It is large, diverse, spectacular, representative, and the site is relatively easy to visit, study and appreciate.

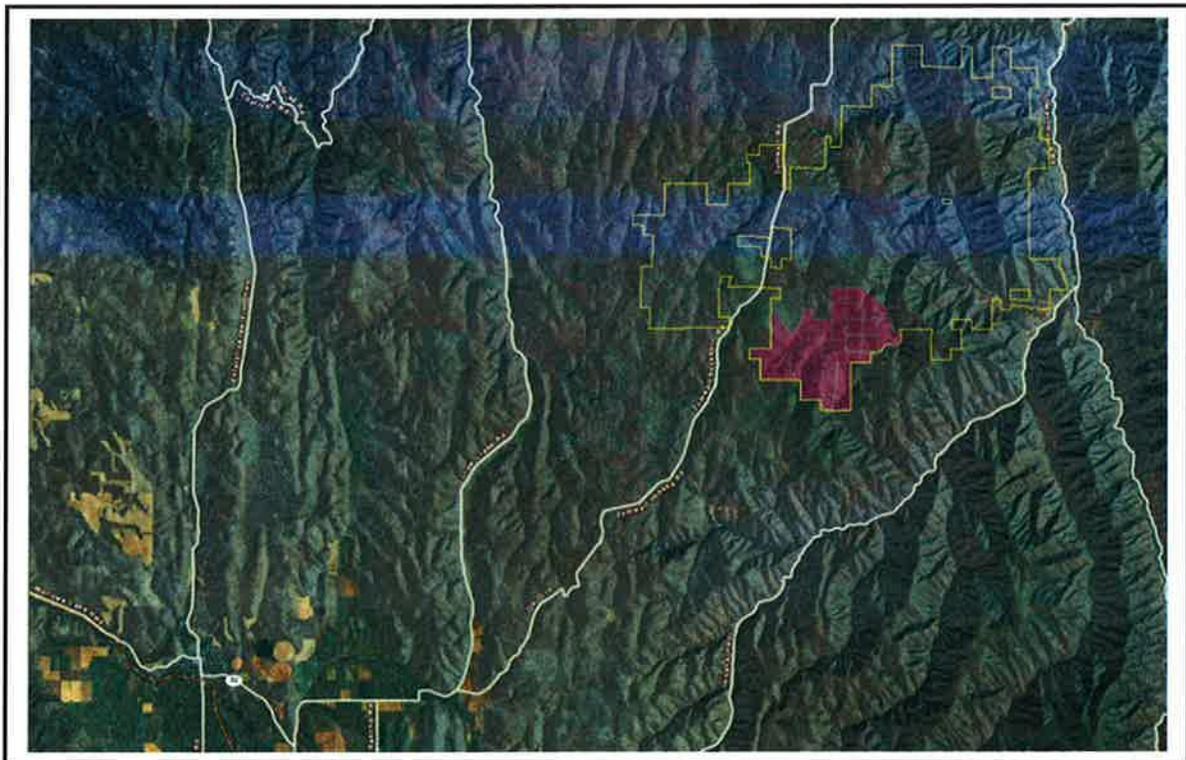
**Ownership:** Private

**Designation:** Proposed for designation in 2012.

**Evaluation:** James S. Kagan, Portland State University, 1987 and 2012



Location of Zumwalt Prairie (yellow) within the Columbia Plateau of Washington, Oregon, and Idaho



Proposed Zumwalt Prairie NNL (pink) within the Zumwalt Prairie TNC lands (yellow)

Proposed National Natural Landmark Designation  
**ZUMWALT PRAIRIE, Wallowa County, Oregon**

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**Comments received as of November 23, 2012**

No comments were received regarding this proposed designation.



## NATIONAL NATURAL LANDMARK BRIEF

**Name:** Garden Park Fossil Area

**Location:** Fremont County, Colorado

**Description:** The Garden Park Fossil Area is located in Fremont County, Colorado, along the Fourmile Creek drainage approximately 8 miles north of Cañon City. The site was originally designated in 1973 in recognition of the historical and paleontological significance of the Jurassic age dinosaur discoveries excavated from outcrops of the Morrison Formation in the area.

An additional 3168.64 acres are proposed for expansion of the original 40-acre NNL site, bringing the total designation to 3208.64 acres. Quarries in the Garden Park area played an important role in the “Bone Wars” of the early period of American paleontology, and activities at this site were responsible for generating wide-spread interest in dinosaurs beginning in the late 1870s. Important discoveries include the three most complete *Stegosaurus* skeletons ever found, as well as the first known remains of dinosaurs like *Camarasaurus*, *Ceratosaurus*, and *Diplodocus*. In addition to dinosaurs, Garden Park has also produced fossils of Late Jurassic mammals, trees, and turtles, among other things, and finds include 23 type specimens.

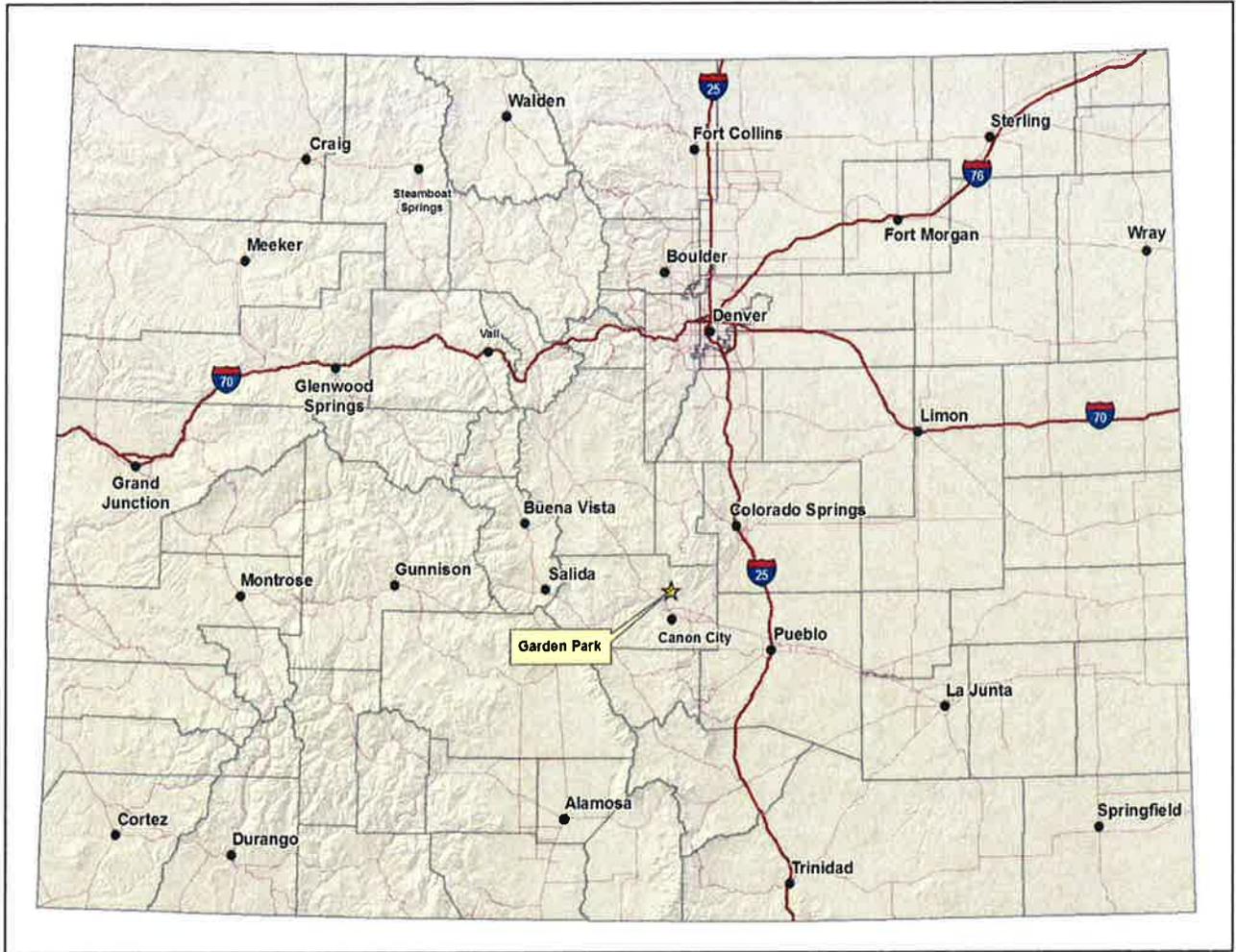
The site also includes a high quality example of pinyon-juniper woodlands that support populations of two plants endemic to the upper Arkansas valley.

**Significance:** Garden Park Fossil Area is among the most important and diverse Late Jurassic age fossil sites in North America. It was one of the primary areas responsible for generating worldwide interest in dinosaurs during the late 1800s. The proposed expansion would greatly increase the validity of the site by incorporating the majority of the fossil quarries at Garden Park.

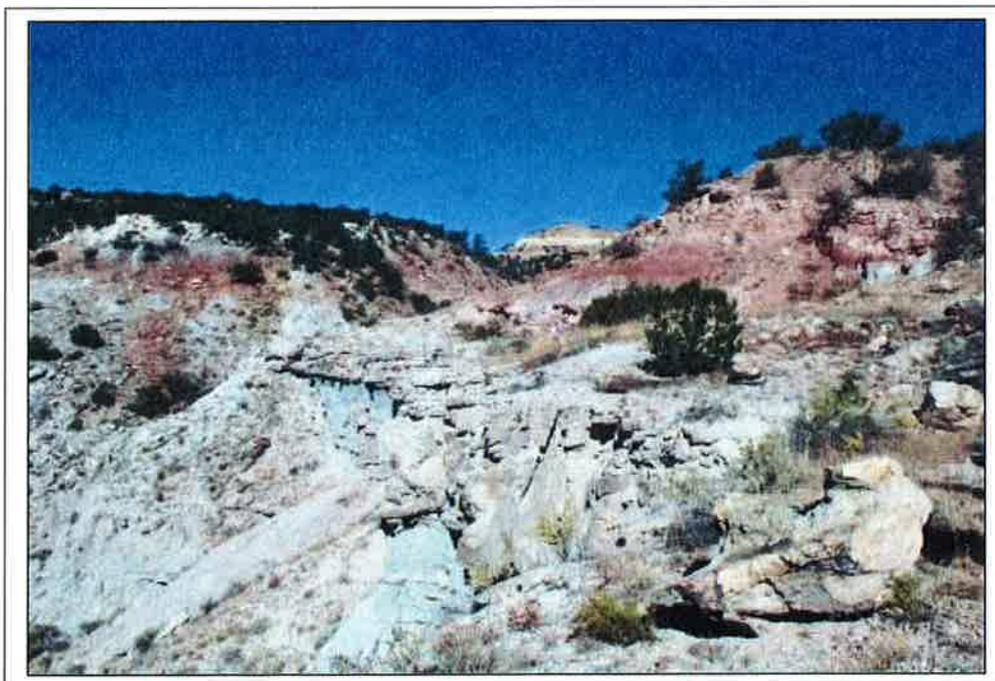
**Ownership:** Federal

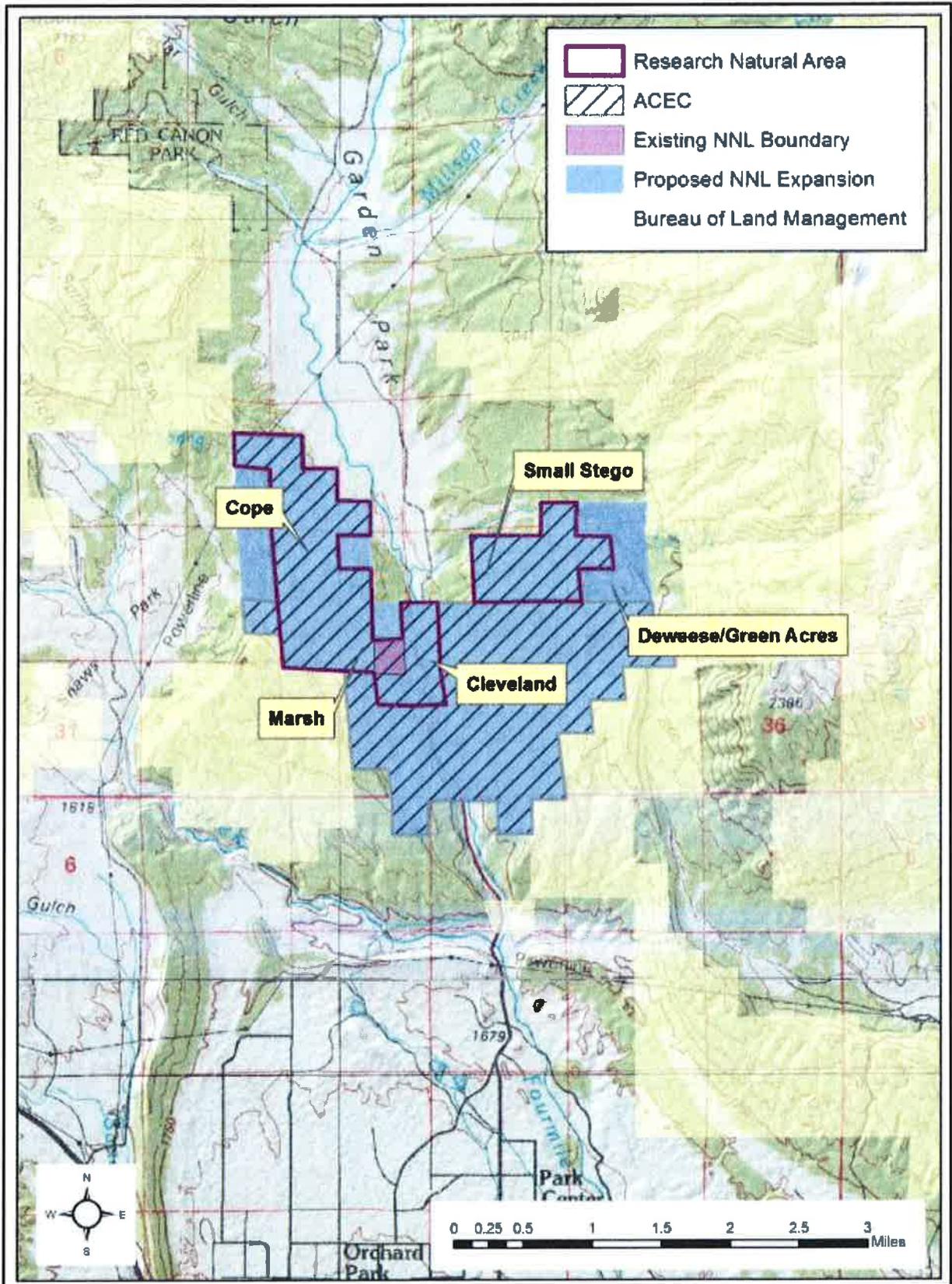
**Designation:** November 1973; boundary expansion proposed in 2012

**Evaluation:** Dr. Paul O. McGrew and Michael W. Hager, University of Wyoming, 1972; Karin Decker, Colorado Natural Heritage Program, 2012.



Location of Garden Park Fossil Area NNL within the state of Colorado





Map showing existing and proposed boundaries of Garden Park Fossil Area NNL.

Proposed Boundary Expansion for Existing National Natural Landmark  
**GARDEN PARK FOSSIL AREA, Fremont County, Colorado**

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Comments received as of November 23, 2012

No comments were received regarding this proposed boundary expansion.