

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Burns Canyon

Site Code S.USCOHP*23168

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 845 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 370944N
State Colorado Longitude 1070524W

Quad Code Quad Name
37107-B1 Oakbrush Hill

County
Archuleta (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name
14080101 Upper San Juan

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	7,100.00 Feet	2,164.00 Meters
Maximum Elevation	7,800.00 Feet	2,377.00 Meters

Site Description

This PCA occupies parts of Burns Canyon and a small side canyon (Pollito Canyon). It is forested with ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) and Gambel oak (*Quercus gambelii*), and includes openings with Arizona fescue (*Festuca arizonica*). Marsh meadow Indian paintbrush (*Castilleja lineata*) was found in grassy openings near the Pollito Canyon Road, which runs through the PCA. Other associated species at the site include wooly cinquefoil (*Potentilla hippiana*), Rocky Mountain juniper (*Juniperus scopulorum*), Louisiana sagewort (*Artemisia ludoviciana*), prairie smoke (*Geum triflorum*), wax current (*Ribes cereum*), blue grama (*Bouteloua gracilis*), and an unidentified milkvetch (*Astragalus* sp). In May 2002, an estimated 2000 plants were observed. Old flower stalks from the previous year were more easily seen than new growth, which was only beginning and consisted of two inch long tufts at the base of some old plants. Many had no evidence of growth in the very dry 2002 season.

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 02/15/2003

Designer Lyon, M.J.

Boundary Justification

The boundary was drawn to enclose two sub-populations of marsh meadow Indian paintbrush, and includes some adjacent potential habitat to allow for movement of the plants over time. Future surveys of the area may result in enlargement of the PCA.

Primary Area 636.46 Acres 257.57 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B4: Moderate Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

The Burns Canyon site contains an excellent (A-ranked) occurrence of marsh meadow Indian paintbrush, a plant that is extremely rare in Colorado (G4?/S1). Although the species is known from New Mexico and Arizona, this is the first occurrence to be documented in the CNHP database for Colorado.

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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>
22303	<i>Castilleja lineata</i>	marsh-meadow indian-paintbrush	G4?	S1	Yes

REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
166839	Lyon, P. 2001. Colorado Natural Heritage Program Field Surveys.

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date 02/15/2003

Version Author Lyon, M.J.

Disclaimer

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