

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Cactus Park at Triangle Mesa

Site Code S.USCOHP*280

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 1149 Site Class PCA
Site Alias Cactus Park

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 384950N
State Colorado Longitude 1082743W

<u>Quad Code</u>	<u>Quad Name</u>
38108-G4	Triangle Mesa
38108-G5	Jacks Canyon

County
Mesa (CO)

<u>Watershed Code</u>	<u>Watershed Name</u>
14020005	Lower Gunnison

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	5,200.00 Feet	1,585.00 Meters
Maximum Elevation	6,700.00 Feet	2,042.00 Meters

Site Description

This site contains several small drainages of an unnamed tributary of the Gunnison River, north of Dominguez Canyon. Elevations range from 5,200 to 6,700 feet. Soils are clay and sand, derived from the Morrison, Entrada and Wingate formations. Pinon and juniper trees, with mountain mahogany, serviceberry, black sagebrush, rabbitbrush, and a variety of other shrubs, forbs and grasses cover the rocky hillsides. Lower washes have been invaded by tamarisk, but higher elevation drainages are in good condition. The Grand Junction milkvetch (*Astragalus linifolius*) is found on the sides of upper dry washes. The Colorado hookless cactus (*Sclerocactus glaucus*), while a small population, is a good example of the species, having straight central spines and showing no intergradation with the more common species, *Sclerocactus parviflora*.

Key Environmental Factors

No Data

Climate Description

No Data

Land Use History

No Data

Cultural Features

No Data

SITE DESIGN

Site Map P - Partial Mapped Date 01/18/2011
Designer Kuhn, B. and M.J. Lyon

Boundary Justification

The boundary encompasses the known occurrences of rare plants and was expanded west in 2010 to include new occurrences of *Astragalus linifolius* and *Sclerocactus glaucus*. The adjacent Big Dominguez Creek site is designed for similar species, but Cactus Park at Triangle Mesa is on top of the mesa and has no riparian zone, so these are maintained as two separate sites.

Primary Area	3,387.30 Acres	1,370.80 Hectares
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SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B2: Very High Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site supports a good (B-ranked) occurrence of the globally imperiled (G2G3/S2S3) Colorado hookless cactus (*Sclerocactus glaucus*) and one of the best known occurrences (A-ranked) of Grand Junction

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milkvetch (*Astragalus linifolius*), a globally vulnerable plant (G3Q/S3). There are also good (B-ranked) and good to fair (BC-ranked) occurrences of the milkvetch. Additionally, there is a good (B-ranked) occurrence of the globally vulnerable (G3/S3) woodland, *Juniperus osteosperma* / *Leymus salinus* spp. *salinus*.

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

Tamarix ramosissima, *Bromus tectorum*.

Offsite

No Data

Information Needs

No Data

ASSOCIATED ELEMENTS OF BIODIVERSITY

<u>Element State ID</u>	<u>State Scientific Name</u>	<u>State Common Name</u>	<u>Global Rank</u>	<u>State Rank</u>	<u>Driving Site Rank</u>
20453	<i>Astragalus linifolius</i>	Grand Junction milkvetch	G3Q	S3	No
40542	<i>Juniperus osteosperma</i> / <i>Leymus salinus</i> spp. <i>salinus</i> Wooded Herbaceous Vegetation	Mesic Western Slope Pinyon-Juniper Woodlands	G3	S3	No
16984	<i>Sclerocactus glaucus</i>	Colorado hookless cactus	G2G3	S2S3	Yes
20453	<i>Astragalus linifolius</i>	Grand Junction milkvetch	G3Q	S3	No
20453	<i>Astragalus linifolius</i>	Grand Junction milkvetch	G3Q	S3	No

REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
198627	Lyon, P. and B. Kuhn. 2010. Rare Plant Survey of Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area.
173289	Lyon, P., C. Pague, R. Rondeau, L. Renner, C. Slater, and C. Richard. 1996. Final Report: Natural Heritage Inventory of Mesa County, Colorado. Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Fort Collins, CO.

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

Original site design by Reid, M. and M.J. Lyon 1996-12-01.

VERSION

Version Date	11/18/2010
Version Author	Kuhn, B. and M.J. Lyon

Disclaimer

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