

# Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Carrizo Tributary Canyon

Site Code S.USCOHP\*27121

## IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 2482 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 370746N  
State Colorado Longitude 1033036W

| <u>Quad Code</u> | <u>Quad Name</u>  |
|------------------|-------------------|
| 37103-A5         | Cobert Mesa North |
| 37103-B5         | Tobe              |

### County

Las Animas (CO)

| <u>Watershed Code</u> | <u>Watershed Name</u> |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 11040001              | Cimarron headwaters   |

## SITE DESCRIPTION

|                   |               |                 |
|-------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Minimum Elevation | 5,900.00 Feet | 1,798.32 Meters |
| Maximum Elevation | 6,200.00 Feet | 1,889.76 Meters |

### Site Description

The site includes the relatively narrow north-facing canyon of an un-named tributary to West Carrizo Creek.

### Key Environmental Factors

The cool north-facing aspect and the dense juniper woodland community combine with the rocky canyon topography to provide ideal habitat for the rare plant species.

### Climate Description

The climate is semiarid and is typical of the high plains of southeastern Colorado where approximately 13 inches of precipitation is received annually. Most precipitation occurs between April and September, with May typically being the wettest month. Annually, climate of the area is characterized by cold winters and hot summers with winter temperatures as low as zero on at least several days and temperatures of over 100 °F occurring on many days in July and August (HPRCC 2008).

### Land Use History

Land use has historically been dominated by ranching of sheep and cattle since the mid 1800's (Friedman 1985). The private ranch owner continues cattle ranching as the sole land use.

### Cultural Features

No Data

## SITE DESIGN

Site Map Y - Yes Mapped Date 04/04/2008  
Designer Stevens, J.E.

### Boundary Justification

The boundary is drawn to protect the plants from any possible direct physical destruction of the habitat and includes the canyon sides where the element is located and a small buffer above and below the canyon walls, the canyon mouth and the canyon top. This should provide adequate protection.

Primary Area 103.48 Acres 41.88 Hectares

## SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

### Biodiversity Significance Comments

The site supports an excellent (A-ranked) occurrence of the globally vulnerable (G3/S3) Fendler cloak-fern (*Argyrochosma fendleri*).

Other Values Rank No Data

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## Other Values Comments

No Data

## LAND MANAGEMENT ISSUES

### Land Use Comments

The existing land use of livestock grazing appears compatible with the continued viability of the element.

### Natural Hazard Comments

No Data

### Exotics Comments

Cheatgrass and mullein can occupy similar habitat and should be controlled.

### Offsite

Additional north-facing tributary canyons exist in the vicinity and remain un-surveyed. Inclusion of those areas into this site at a future date may be warranted.

### 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> |
| 24246           | <i>Argyrochosma fendleri</i> | Fendler cloak-fern       | G3            | S3           | Yes              |

## REFERENCES

| <u>Reference ID</u> | <u>Full Citation</u>  |
|---------------------|---|
| 195120              | Friedman, Paul D. 1985. Final Report of History and Oral History Studies of the Fort Carson Pinon Canyon Maneuver Area, Las Animas, Colorado. USDI. National Park Service, Interagency Archaeological Services Branch, Rocky Mountain Regional Office, Denver, CO.              |
| 195121              | HPRCC. 2008. High Plains Regional Climate Center Web Page. Based on data from automated weather stations operated by Colorado for southeastern Colorado area. High Plains Regional Climate Center Web Page: < <a href="http://www.hprcc.unl.edu">http://www.hprcc.unl.edu</a> > |
| 195097              | Stevens, J., J. Sovell, D. Culver, K. Decker, L. Grunau, A. Lavender, and C. Gaughan. 2008. Final Report: Southeastern Colorado Survey of Critical Biological Resources 2007. Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Fort Collins, CO.  |

## ADDITIONAL TOPICS

### Additional Topics

No Data

## VERSION

Version Date 04/04/2008  
Version Author Stevens, J.E.

## Disclaimer

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