

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Chacuaco Rimrock

Site Code S.USCOHP*27094

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 2474 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 371522N
State Colorado Longitude 1034218W

<u>Quad Code</u>	<u>Quad Name</u>
37103-C6	Humbar Spring
37103-B6	Miners Peak

County

Las Animas (CO)

<u>Watershed Code</u>	<u>Watershed Name</u>
11020010	Purgatoire

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	5,500.00 Feet	1,676.40 Meters
Maximum Elevation	5,680.00 Feet	1,731.26 Meters

Site Description

Chacuaco Rimrock occupies the narrow open woodland on the west side of the large, nearly level top of land between Chacuaco and Tobe creeks. It is bounded on the west by the rimrock and the steep cliff and side slopes that drop to the Chacuaco Creek. The east side is bounded by the margin between the shortgrass prairie that covers the majority of the top and the sparse juniper woodlands where the rare plants are found.

Key Environmental Factors

The sparse gravelly soils and open woodlands between the edge of the rimrock and the open prairie provide ideal conditions for the rare plant species. The western exposure on the Chacuaco side of the interfluvial top may provide slightly hotter and drier conditions than the eastern exposure on the Tobe Creek side.

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 ranch owner continues cattle ranching as the primary land use. Other uses include rock picking for landscaping and building facades, and some private hunting and ecotourism.

Cultural Features

No Data

SITE DESIGN

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

Boundary Justification

The sparse gravelly soils and open woodlands between the edge of the rimrock and the open shortgrass prairie provide ideal site conditions for dwarf milkweed (*Asclepias uncialis* ssp. *uncialis*). The western exposure on the Chacuaco side of the interfluvial top may provide slightly hotter and drier conditions than the eastern exposure on the Tobe Creek side. The boundary follows the natural topographic features, encompassing the sparse juniper woodland that occupies the margin of this large interfluvial top. It is intended to protect the rare plants from direct physical disturbance, provide habitat for potential element occurrences, and protect the ecological processes that support them. Although the conditions thought to be

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important to this species also occur outside the site, the boundary as drawn covers the minimum extent needed to maintain these known occurrences.

Primary Area 3,169.33 Acres 1,282.59 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

The site supports an excellent (A-ranked) and a fair (C-ranked) occurrence of the globally imperiled (G3G4T2T3/S2) dwarf milkweed (*Asclepias uncialis* ssp. *uncialis*).

Other Values Rank No Data

Other Values Comments

No Data

LAND MANAGEMENT ISSUES

Land Use Comments

Continue appropriate grazing regimes or incorporate periodic burning to stimulate regeneration and maintain species composition. Appropriate timing, intensity of grazing and periodic prescribed burning can be valuable and necessary management tools.

Natural Hazard Comments

No Data

Exotics Comments

Site had very few exotics.

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>
23798	<i>Asclepias uncialis</i> ssp. <i>uncialis</i>	dwarf milkweed	G3G4T2T3	S2	Yes
23798	<i>Asclepias uncialis</i> ssp. <i>uncialis</i>	dwarf milkweed	G3G4T2T3	S2	No

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: < http://www.hprcc.unl.edu >
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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