

# Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Chimney Rock AA

Site Code S.USCOHP\*110

## IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 143 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 371125N  
State Colorado Longitude 1071753W

Quad Code Quad Name  
37107-B3 Chimney Rock

County  
Archuleta (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name  
14080102 Piedra

## SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	6,423.00 Feet	1,957.73 Meters
Maximum Elevation	7,696.00 Feet	2,345.74 Meters

### Site Description

This site includes the Chimney Rock Archaeological Site, an area of Indian ruins that receives many visitors each year. The area includes steep slopes of Mancos Shale with barren areas on convex slopes. Ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) and Gambel oak (*Quercus gambelii*) grow on concave slopes and in the draws. An interesting inversion of plant communities occurs here, with pinon (*Pinus edilis*) and juniper (*Juniperus* sp.) occupying higher elevations, while ponderosa pine is found at the lower elevations (Schmoll 1932). Aztec milkvetch (*Astragalus proximus*) was found on these barren lower slopes and flats, while at higher elevations it is replaced by the similar but more common bent milkvetch (*Astragalus flexuosus*).

### 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 08/12/2009  
Designer Panjabi, S.S.

### Boundary Justification

The boundary is drawn to include the known occurrences, additional potential habitat, and the local mosaic of plant communities. The boundary was digitized while referencing a one meter digital color orthophoto quad.

Primary Area 4,527.24 Acres 1,832.12 Hectares

## SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

### Biodiversity Significance Comments

The Chimney Rock AA site is home to an extant occurrence of the globally imperiled (G2/S1) violet milkvetch (*Astragalus iodopetalus*) and an excellent (A-ranked) occurrence of the state rare (G4/S2) Aztec milkvetch (*Astragalus proximus*). The population consists of at least 6 sub-populations that are separated by less than a mile from each other. Four of these sub-populations were documented in 2001; however, during a re-visit to the site in May, 2002, a year of extreme drought conditions, no *Astragalus proximus* was found and a

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subsequent visit in May 2003 to one sub-population also failed to reveal any plants. It remains to be seen if this population can recover from the effects of drought. Historical records of Aztec milkvetch and the globally imperiled (G2/S2) Gray's townsend-daisy (*Townsendia glabella*) were documented in the 1920's. Locational information for these records is imprecise.

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

A number of exotic plant species were noted in the site, including smooth brome (*Bromus inermis*), cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*), Japanese brome (*Bromus japonicus*), littlepod false flax (*Camelina microcarpa*), prickly lettuce (*Lactuca serriola*), alfalfa (*Medicago sativa*), and yellow sweet clover (*Melilotus officinalis*).

## Offsite

No Data

## Information Needs

Current field surveys are needed to assess quality of rare plants and location of Gray's townsend-daisy (*Townsendia glabella*).

## 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>
19324	<i>Astragalus proximus</i>	Aztec milkvetch	G4	S2	No
20834	<i>Townsendia glabella</i>	Gray's townsend-daisy	G2	S2	No
21202	<i>Astragalus iodopetalus</i>	violet milkvetch	G2	S1	Yes
19324	<i>Astragalus proximus</i>	Aztec milkvetch	G4	S2	No

## REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
166839	Lyon, P. 2001. Colorado Natural Heritage Program Field Surveys.
198374	Schmoll, Hazel. 1932. Vegetation of the Chimney Rock Area: Pagosa-Piedra Region. Dissertation: Thesis (PhD) University of Chicago, Department of Botany.

## ADDITIONAL TOPICS

### Additional Topics

Original site design by Lyon, M.J. 2002-02-15.

## VERSION

<b>Version Date</b>	08/12/2009
<b>Version Author</b>	Lyon, M.J. and S.S. Panjabi

## Disclaimer

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