

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Chromo

Site Code S.USCOHP*071

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 33 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>
2467	S.USCOHP*27036	Pagosa Springs

LOCATORS

Nation United States Latitude 370309N
State Colorado Longitude 1065035W

Quad Code Quad Name

37106-A7 Chromo

County

Archuleta (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name

14080101 Upper San Juan

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	7,360.00 Feet	2,243.00 Meters
Maximum Elevation	7,800.00 Feet	2,377.00 Meters

Site Description

This site is located at the junction of the Navajo River and Little Navajo River, at Chromo. It encompasses the alluvial bottomland associated with both rivers, and is edged by foothills and low hills of Mancos shale. The hilly areas have scattered ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) and Gambel's oak (*Quercus gambellii*), interspersed with large areas of grass and shrubland. Pagosa bladderpod (*Lesquerella pruinososa*) was found in the southern part of the site in 2002, growing in barren areas along the sides of a dry gully in Mancos shale that leads down to irrigated pastures along the Navajo River. Other species found in the area included western wheatgrass (*Pascopyrum smithii*), blue gramma (*Bouteloua gracilis*), muttongrass (*Poa fendleriana*), fringed sage (*Artemisia frigida*), low rabbitbrush (*Chrysothamnus viscidiflorus*), and broom snakeweed (*Gutierrezia sarothrae*). The northern population of Pagosa bladderpod, documented in 1989 was noted to be heavily grazed, and the pines to have been historically logged.

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 encompasses two occurrences of Pagosa bladderpod and some additional potential habitat between them to allow for expansion of the populations over time.

Primary Area 641.51 Acres 259.61 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B2: Very High Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

The site contains a good (B-ranked) and a historical occurrence of Pagosa bladderpod (*Lesquerella pruinososa*), a species that is imperiled (G2/S2) on a global scale. The Pagosa bladderpod is restricted to soils derived from Mancos shale and is currently only known from a small area in Archuleta County, Colorado.

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Similar soil conditions exist just south of these sites in New Mexico, and an inventory of these areas is needed to determine if the species occurs there as well.

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

Several exotic plant species were noted, including cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*), cranesbill (*Erodium cicutarium*), horehound (*Marrubium vulgare*), and musk thistle (*Carduus nutans*).

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>
18927	<i>Lesquerella pruinosa</i>	Pagosa bladderpod	G2	S2	Yes
18927	<i>Lesquerella pruinosa</i>	Pagosa bladderpod	G2	S2	No

REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
-	No Data

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date	02/15/2003
Version Author	Lyon, M.J.

Disclaimer

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