

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Cinder Gulch

Site Code S.USCOHP*24739

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 2104 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 370134N
State Colorado Longitude 1080817W

Quad Code Quad Name

37108-A2 Redmesa

County

La Plata (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name

14080105 Middle San Juan

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation - Feet - Meters

Maximum Elevation - Feet - Meters

Site Description

This is a large level grassland dominated by alkali sacaton (*Sporobolus airoides*), in a mosaic with sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata* ssp. *tridentata*), greasewood (*Sarcobatus vermiculatus*) and galleta (*Hilaria jamesii*) dominated areas. Adjacent Cinder Bluffs and other hills in the area have pinyon-juniper woodlands. This area was formerly heavily grazed, and had a dense sagebrush cover of 80% with a minimal understory. Cattle were removed 2 years ago, and some of the sagebrush was killed with an aerially applied herbicide in Fall, 2001. There is now excellent grass recovery from the existing seed source, without any planting having been done. (Jason Meecham, SUT Range Div., pers. Comm.). Sagebrush cover has been reduced to 10% in the plot examined by CNHP, and less than 30% throughout the area. Alkali sacaton accounted for 80%, with galleta 10%, and small amounts (< 1%) of several other shrubs and forbs including greasewood, four-wing saltbush (*Atriplex canescens*), winterfat (*Krascheninnikovia lanata*), hairspine pricklypear (*Opuntia polyacantha*), common sunflower (*Helianthus annuus*), sego lily (*Calochortus nuttallii*) and prince's plume (*Stanleya pinnata*). The site is included here to represent a larger area that has not been mapped.

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 01/30/2004

Designer Lyon, M.J.

Boundary Justification

The boundary is drawn to encompass an area of excellent condition grassland that is representative of a larger area. The entire extent of the community was not mapped.

Primary Area 1,017.14 Acres 411.62 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

Alkali sacaton dominated grasslands are relatively uncommon in Colorado, although they are much more frequent in adjacent New Mexico (Jason Meecham, per. comm.) This is an excellent (A-ranked) example of

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a globally vulnerable (G3/S3) plant community.

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

No Data

Offsite

No Data

Information Needs

No Data

ASSOCIATED ELEMENTS OF BIODIVERSITY

<u>Element</u>			<u>Global Rank</u>	<u>State Rank</u>	<u>Driving Site Rank</u>
<u>State ID</u>	<u>State Scientific Name</u>	<u>State Common Name</u>			
19429	<i>Sporobolus airoides</i> Southern Plains Herbaceous Vegetation	Great Plains Salt Meadows	G3Q	S3	Yes

REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
184581	Lyon, P. 2003. Colorado Natural Heritage Program La Plata County Biological Assessment.
184657	Meecham, J. 2003. La Plata County Biological Assessment. Interview by Peggy Lyon.

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date 01/30/2004

Version Author Lyon, M.J.

Disclaimer

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