

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Conejos River Springs

Site Code S.USCOHP*069

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 1800 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 370429N
State Colorado Longitude 1061558W

Quad Code Quad Name

37106-A3 Osier

County

Conejos (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name

13010005 Conejos

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	8,440.00 Feet	2,573.00 Meters
Maximum Elevation	8,600.00 Feet	2,621.00 Meters

Site Description

The site is located along the Conejos River just below a Forest Service campground on the lower slopes and river floodplain. Colorado Highway 17 runs through the site. Scattered ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) occur on the site and many of the Ripley milkvetch plants occur under the outside edge of the tree canopy. Numerous non-native species including smooth brome (*Bromus inermis*), toadflax (*Linaria* sp.), Kentucky bluegrass (*Poa pratensis*), crested wheatgrass (*Agropyron cristatum*), and sweetclover (*Mellilotus officinalis*) have invaded the understory.

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 01/10/2000

Designer Pague, C.A. and S.M. Kettler

Boundary Justification

The boundary also encompasses the Ripley milkvetch location and a small amount of adjacent habitat to include open grasslands or savanna-like vegetation. This boundary is intended to allow some seed dispersal into currently unoccupied but apparently suitable habitat and provide habitat for plant pollinators. Seed dispersal mechanisms considered important for this species are small mammals (presumably kangaroo rats) caching the seed pods and precipitation events washing the seeds downhill (Julie Burt - pers. comm.). A suspected pollinator of this plant is a common bee that could nectar on species other than Ripley milkvetch in the same habitat.

Primary Area 65.28 Acres 26.42 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B4: Moderate Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site contains a fair (C-ranked) occurrence of a plant species which is vulnerable on a global scale (G3/S3), Ripley milkvetch (*Astragalus ripleyi*).

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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</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>
18485	<i>Astragalus ripleyi</i>	Ripley milkvetch	G3	S2	No
18485	<i>Astragalus ripleyi</i>	Ripley milkvetch	G3	S2	Yes
18485	<i>Astragalus ripleyi</i>	Ripley milkvetch	G3	S2	No

REFERENCES

Reference ID

Full Citation

165924

Kettler, S., J. Rocchio, R. Schorr, J. Burt. 2000. Biological Inventory of Rio Grande and Conejos Counties, Colorado. Unpublished report prepared for The Nature Conservancy. 234 pp.

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

Original site design by Pague, C.A. 1994-08-04.

VERSION

Version Date 01/10/2000

Version Author Pague, C.A. and S.M. Kettler

Disclaimer

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