

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Coyote Wash

Site Code S.USWRO1*1021

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 1505 Site Class PCA
Site Alias None

Network of Conservation Areas (NCA)

NCA Site ID NCA Site Code NCA Site Name
- No Data

LOCATORS

Nation United States Latitude 381352N
State Colorado Longitude 1085747W

Quad Code Quad Name
38108-B8 Anderson Mesa

County
Montrose (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name
14030002 Upper Dolores

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation 5,100.00 Feet 1,554.00 Meters
Maximum Elevation 5,800.00 Feet 1,768.00 Meters

Site Description

Coyote Wash is a steep-sided tributary canyon that joins the Dolores Canyon in the roadless area between Slick Rock and Bedrock. Its flat sandy bottom has a small meandering stream that occasionally floods. Vegetation in the wash includes giant reed, bulrushes, and Baltic rush. The rocky sandstone canyon sides are covered with pinon - juniper woodland, with some open grasslands on benches and mesa tops. Seeping alcoves in the sandstone canyon walls high above the wash are the sites of hanging garden communities that support several rare plants. Colorado's largest population of the Kachina daisy is located here. It grows in horizontal crevices in seeping alcoves. Studies currently underway suggest that the Colorado populations of this plant are distinct from those in Utah, and may warrant at least separate varietal status (Woolstenhulme personal communication). Eastwood's monkeyflower is also found in horizontal crevices on seeping canyon walls, along with the more common yellow columbine and poison ivy. Helleborine orchids are found in the wet grassy areas just below the seeps, along with several sedges, rushes, and bulrushes. Side drainages entering the wash support box elder, hackberry, single leaf ash, skunkbrush, New Mexico privet, Baltic rush, giant wild rye, and Rocky Mountain juniper. Grasslands on flat benches have been identified by the BLM as ungrazed relic communities of needle-and-threadgrass, galleta, blue grama, and Indian ricegrass. There are few exotic plant species in the area. The rocky outcrops, steep cliffs, and canyons of the area offer ideal roosting sites for the spotted bat (*Euderma maculatum*). There are fewer than 20 occurrences in Colorado, with few individuals in each. One member of this species was recorded at this site in 1994. Red spotted toads and Woodhouse's toads were observed in pools in the wash. Bighorn sheep have been reintroduced in the canyon, and are apparently surviving. This site is difficult to access by land, but is an easy walk for those rafting or kayaking on the Dolores River. However, few people venture to climb up the sides of the canyon where the significant biological resources are located. The site is entirely in public ownership, managed by BLM. Coyote Wash has been selected as a Colorado Natural Area.

Key Environmental Factors

No Data

Climate Description

No Data

Land Use History

Area is a pristine and inaccessable canyon with little past disturbance or chance for future disturbance.

Cultural Features

No Data

SITE DESIGN

Site Map Y - Yes Mapped Date 03/13/2000
Designer Lyon, M.J. and J.R. Sovell

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Boundary Justification

The boundary is drawn to include the element occurrences known from Coyote Wash, including the riparian area and the cliffs that are the location of the hanging garden communities. It includes the habitat of the Kachina daisy that is known to be occupied, as well as adjacent areas that are potentially available for future colonization by this species. Upstream portions of the wash that are not included in the site may also contribute significantly to the quality of the riparian area.

Primary Area 840.46 Acres 340.12 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B2: Very High Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site contains an excellent (A-ranked) occurrence of the globally imperiled (G2/S1) Kachina daisy (*Erigeron kachinensis*). This species is the most imperiled of all plants found in San Miguel and Montrose counties. As one of only two known populations of Kachina daisy in Colorado, this site is extremely important for further research. Current taxonomic research on the Kachina daisy may result in assigning the Colorado plants to a separate species or variety, in which case this population would be considered even more rare and imperiled, perhaps raising its biodiversity rank to B1 (outstanding significance). This site also contains several good (B-ranked) occurrences of two globally vulnerable plant species, Eastwood monkey-flower (*Mimulus eastwoodiae*) and helleborine (*Epipactis gigantea*), an extant occurrence of the state rare (G4/S2) spotted bat (*Euderma maculatum*) and an excellent (A-ranked) occurrence of the globally imperiled to secure (G2G4/S2) *Hesperostipa comata* grassland 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 State ID</u>	<u>State Scientific Name</u>	<u>State Common Name</u>	<u>Global Rank</u>	<u>State Rank</u>	<u>Driving Site Rank</u>
24857	<i>Hesperostipa comata</i> Great Basin Herbaceous Vegetation	Western Slope Grasslands	G2G4	S2	No
23346	<i>Erigeron kachinensis</i>	kachina daisy	G2	S1	Yes
17626	<i>Epipactis gigantea</i>	helleborine	G4	S2S3	No
21504	<i>Euderma maculatum</i>	Spotted Bat	G4	S2	No
21230	<i>Mimulus eastwoodiae</i>	Eastwood monkey-flower	G3G4	S1	No
17626	<i>Epipactis gigantea</i>	helleborine	G4	S2S3	No
17626	<i>Epipactis gigantea</i>	helleborine	G4	S2S3	No

REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
166644	Lyon, P. 1999. Colorado Natural Heritage Program Field Survey to the Uncompahgre Basin, Montrose and Ouray Counties.
166839	Lyon, P. 2001. Colorado Natural Heritage Program Field Surveys.
165394	Snow, C. 1974. Habitat Management Services for Endangered Species: Report No. 4, Spotted Bat <i>Euderma maculatum</i> . Bureau of Land Management.

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ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date 03/13/2000

Version Author Lyon, M.J. and J.R. Sovell

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