

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Disappointment Valley Northwest

Site Code S.USCOHP*26193

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 2343 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 380037N
State Colorado Longitude 1084840W

<u>Quad Code</u>	<u>Quad Name</u>
37108-H7	Joe Davis Hill
38108-A7	Hamm Canyon

County

San Miguel (CO)

<u>Watershed Code</u>	<u>Watershed Name</u>
14030002	Upper Dolores

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	5,500.00 Feet	1,676.40 Meters
Maximum Elevation	5,611.00 Feet	1,710.23 Meters

Site Description

Disappointment Valley is the southernmost of several parallel northwest/southeast trending valleys in western Colorado that were formed by the collapse of ancient salt domes. The northern part of the valley floor has clay soils derived from Mancos shale. Small knolls of light gray gypsum soils of the Paradox member of the Hermosa Formation are scattered throughout the valley. These outcrops support widely scattered clumps of *Cryptantha gypsophila*, a species first described in 2004. Associated species are shadscale (*Atriplex confertifolia*), blue grama (*Bouteloua gracilis*), western tansymustard (*Descurainia pinnata*) and scarlet globemallow (*Sphaeralcea coccinea*). Dakota sandstone on canyon rims on the south side of the valley support Naturita milkvetch (*Astragalus naturitensis*) and a community dominated by black sagebrush. Associated plants here include lavenderleaf sundrops (*Calyophus lavandulifolia*), cleftleaf wildheliotrope (*Phacelia crenulata*), *Erigeron flagellaris*, rabbitbrush (*Chrysothamnus nauseosus*), pricklypear (*Opuntia polyacantha*), scarlet globemallow (*Sphaeralcea coccinea*), sixweeks fescue (*Vulpia octoflora*), blue grama (*Bouteloua gracilis*), Sulphur-flower buckwheat (*Eriogonum umbellatum*), bastard toadflax (*Comandra umbellata*), skunkbrush (*Rhus trilobata*), cushion buckwheat (*Eriogonum ovalifolium*), tawny cryptantha (*Cryptantha fulvocanescens*), and Ives' fourmerved daisy (*Tetraneuris ivesiana*). Cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*) was the only exotic species noted. Predominant current land use is grazing. There is some oil and gas development, with a potential for more in the future.

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 10/16/2005
Designer Lyon, M.J.

Boundary Justification

The boundary was drawn to include both the Gypsum Valley cat-eye and Naturita milkvetch occurrences, along with suitable habitat for both species.

Primary Area	4,204.03 Acres	1,701.32 Hectares
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SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B2: Very High Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

The site supports a good (B-ranked) and a fair (C-ranked) occurrence of a globally imperiled (G2/S2) plant, Gypsum Valley cat-eye (*Cryptantha gypsophila*) and an excellent (A-ranked) occurrence of a globally imperiled (G2G3/S2S3) plant, Naturita milkvetch (*Astragalus naturitensis*).

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 exotics were noted in the immediate area. *Erodium cicutarium*, *Bromus tectorum* and *Centaurea repens* were found in the bottoms.

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>
40346	<i>Cryptantha gypsophila</i>	Gypsum Valley cateye	G2	S2	Yes
21647	<i>Astragalus naturitensis</i>	Naturita milkvetch	G2G3	S2S3	Yes
40346	<i>Cryptantha gypsophila</i>	Gypsum Valley cateye	G2	S2	Yes

REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
194256	Lyon, P. and J. Hanson. 2006. Final Report: 2005 Rare Plant Survey of San Juan Public Lands, Colorado. Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Fort Collins, CO.

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date 10/16/2005

Version Author Lyon, M.J.

Disclaimer

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