

# Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Dudley Bluffs

Site Code S.USCOFO\*63

## IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 1276 Site Class PCA  
 Site Alias Duck Creek  
 Site Alias Horse Draw  
 Site Alias Piceance Creek Bluffs  
 Site Alias Yellow Creek Bluffs  
 Site Alias Yellow Creek at Pinto Gulch  
 Site Alias Ryan Gulch

## Network of Conservation Areas (NCA)

NCA Site ID	NCA Site Code	NCA Site Name
2469	S.USCOHP*27038	Piceance

## LOCATORS

Nation United States Latitude 395806N  
 State Colorado Longitude 1082056W

## Quad Code Quad Name

39108-G3	Rock School
39108-H3	Square S Ranch
39108-H2	Greasewood Gulch
39108-H4	Wolf Ridge
40108-A3	Barcus Creek SE
40108-A4	Barcus Creek
40108-A2	White River City

## County

Rio Blanco (CO)

## Watershed Code Watershed Name

14050006	Piceance-Yellow
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## SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	5,850.00 Feet	1,783.08 Meters
Maximum Elevation	6,870.00 Feet	2,093.98 Meters

## Site Description

The site is situated in central Rio Blanco County, south of Highway 64 between Rangely and Meeker along the Piceance and Yellow creek drainages. It is irregularly shaped, but basically extends approximately 16 miles north to south and 12 miles east to west. The soils are decomposing shale of the Green River and Uinta Formations. These formations create a landscape of dissected tablelands in the Dudley Bluffs area. Shale outcrops are exposed along dry drainages through erosion from downcutting of streams (Spackman et al. 1997). Two rare plant species listed as federally Threatened grow on the exposed shale barrens. Associated plants in the rare plant communities include pinon pine (*Pinus edulis*), Utah juniper (*Juniperus osteosperma*), fringed sagebrush (*Artemisia frigida*), white sagebrush (*Artemisia ludoviciana*), Wyoming sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata* ssp. *wyomingensis*), shadscale (*Atriplex confertifolia*), rabbitbrush (*Chrysothamnus nauseosus*), skunkbush (*Rhus aromatica trilobata*), lavender-leaf evening primrose (*Calylophus lavandulifolius*), dwarf sand verbena (*Abronia elliptica*), Italian parsley (*Aletes anisates*), Barneby's thistle (*Cirsium barnebyi*), spearleaf wild buckwheat (*Eriogonum lonchophyllum*), spurge (*Euphorbia* sp.), ballhead ipomopsis (*Gilia congesta*), greasewood (*Sarcobatus vermiculatus*), fineleaf hymenopappus (*Hymenopappus filiformis*), rayless aster (*Macarantthera grindelioides*), many-stem stickleaf (*Nuttallia multicaulis*), Torrey's bitterweed (*Tetranneuris torreyana*), thickleaf beardtongue (*Penstemon pachyphyllus*), heliotrope phacelia (*Phacelia crenulata*), Hood's phlox (*Phlox hoodii*), bottlebrush squirreltail (*Elymus elymoides*), and Indian ricegrass (*Achnatherum hymenoides*).

## Key Environmental Factors

Dry erodible soils, and intermittent moisture.

## Climate Description

In the County, summers are warm or hot in most valleys but are much cooler in the mountains. Winters are cold in the mountains. Summer thunderstorms are prevalent; of the total precipitation, 55% usually falls

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between April and September. Average seasonal snowfall is 74.4 inches, average day time temperature is 45 degrees and average precipitation is 16.5 inches for Meeker between 1948 -2007 (Western Regional Climate Center 2008).

## Land Use History

No Data

## Cultural Features

No Data

### SITE DESIGN

Site Map P - Partial

Mapped Date 10/29/2005

Designer Doyle, G.A.

## Boundary Justification

The boundary incorporates the occurrences and additional suitable habitat which is adjacent. The Yellow Creek and Piceance Creek drainages and their tributaries are included where the rare plants have been documented. Future surveys will likely reveal new locations of plants that will expand the site boundary.

Primary Area 45,896.56 Acres

18,573.75 Hectares

### SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B1: Outstanding Biodiversity Significance

## Biodiversity Significance Comments

The site supports five excellent (A-ranked) and several good (B-ranked) occurrences of the globally critically imperiled (G1/S1) Dudley Bluffs bladderpod (*Lesquerella congesta*). There are also excellent (A-ranked), good (B-ranked) and fair (C-ranked) occurrences of Piceance twinpod (*Physaria obcordata*), which is globally imperiled (G1G2/S1S2). Both of these species are federally listed as Threatened. In addition, there is one good (B-ranked) occurrence of the globally imperiled (G2/S2) Piceance bladderpod (*Lesquerella parviflora*), which is on the BLM Sensitive Species list, and two good (B-ranked) occurrences of the globally vulnerable (G3/S3) many-stem stickleaf (*Nuttallia multicaulis*). There are several historical occurrences of the globally imperiled subspecies (G3G4T2/S2) Fremont's beardtongue (*Penstemon fremontii* var. *glabrescens*) and an extant occurrence of the globally vulnerable (G3/S2) Rollins' cat's-eye (*Oreocarya rollinsii*).

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>State Scientific Name</u>	<u>State Common Name</u>	<u>Global Rank</u>	<u>State Rank</u>	<u>Driving Site Rank</u>
17278	<i>Physaria obcordata</i>	Piceance twinpod	G1G2	S1S2	Yes
17278	<i>Physaria obcordata</i>	Piceance twinpod	G1G2	S1S2	No
17327	<i>Lesquerella congesta</i>	Dudley Bluffs bladderpod	G1	S1	Yes
17327	<i>Lesquerella congesta</i>	Dudley Bluffs bladderpod	G1	S1	Yes
17327	<i>Lesquerella congesta</i>	Dudley Bluffs bladderpod	G1	S1	Yes
17278	<i>Physaria obcordata</i>	Piceance twinpod	G1G2	S1S2	Yes

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Name	Dudley Bluffs	Site Code	S.USCOFO*63	
24426	<i>Penstemon fremontii</i> var. <i>glabrescens</i>	Fremont's beardtongue	G3G4T2	S2 No
24426	<i>Penstemon fremontii</i> var. <i>glabrescens</i>	Fremont's beardtongue	G3G4T2	S2 No
24426	<i>Penstemon fremontii</i> var. <i>glabrescens</i>	Fremont's beardtongue	G3G4T2	S2 No
18627	<i>Oreocarya rollinsii</i>	Rollins' cat's-eye	G3	S2 No
23569	<i>Nuttallia multicaulis</i>	many-stem stickleaf	G3	S3 No
23569	<i>Nuttallia multicaulis</i>	many-stem stickleaf	G3	S3 No
17327	<i>Lesquerella congesta</i>	Dudley Bluffs bladderpod	G1	S1 No
17327	<i>Lesquerella congesta</i>	Dudley Bluffs bladderpod	G1	S1 Yes
17278	<i>Physaria obcordata</i>	Piceance twinpod	G1G2	S1S2 No
17278	<i>Physaria obcordata</i>	Piceance twinpod	G1G2	S1S2 No
17327	<i>Lesquerella congesta</i>	Dudley Bluffs bladderpod	G1	S1 No
17327	<i>Lesquerella congesta</i>	Dudley Bluffs bladderpod	G1	S1 Yes

## REFERENCES

Reference ID	Full Citation
195049	BLM, White River Field Office. 2007. Personal communication to Peggy Lyon and Denise Culver of CNHP.
195026	Culver, D., J. Huggins and P. Lyon. 2008. Final Report: Significant Biological Resources in Rio Blanco County, CO. Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Fort Collins, CO.
170374	Naumann, T.S. Department of Botany Marsh Life Sciences Building University of Vermont
166962	Powell, R.L. 1991. Field Survey to Lower Dudley Gulch of April 22, 1991.
164970	Spackman, S., B. Jennings, J. Coles, C. Dawson, M. Minton, A. Kratz, and C. Spurrier. 1997. Colorado Rare Plant Field Guide. Prepared for the Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Forest Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service by the Colorado Natural Heritage Program.
195034	WRCC. 2008. Western Regional Climate Center. Division of Atmospheric Sciences, Desert Research Institute. Reno, Nevada. < <a href="http://www.wrcc.dri.edu">http://www.wrcc.dri.edu</a> >.

## ADDITIONAL TOPICS

### Additional Topics

Original site design by Reid, M. 1991-05-01.

## VERSION

Version Date	12/05/2007
Version Author	Lyon, M.J. and J. Huggins

## Disclaimer

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