

# Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Fourmile Creek-Fremont County

Site Code S.USCOFO\*105

## IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 1615 Site Class PCA  
Site Alias Six-mile Creek Upland

## Network of Conservation Areas (NCA)

<u>NCA Site ID</u>	<u>NCA Site Code</u>	<u>NCA Site Name</u>
2466	S.USCOHP*27035	Arkansas Valley Barrens

## LOCATORS

Nation United States Latitude 382815N  
State Colorado Longitude 1051008W

## Quad Code Quad Name

38105-D2 Canon City  
38105-D1 Florence

## County

Fremont (CO)

## Watershed Code Watershed Name

11020002 Upper Arkansas

## SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	5,500.00 Feet	1,676.00 Meters
Maximum Elevation	5,600.00 Feet	1,707.00 Meters

## Site Description

The site includes the northwest to southeast running hogbacks of Niobrara Formation shale. These shale ridges and outcrops support some of the highest quality occurrences known of several globally imperiled plant species. The surrounding plant communities are composed primarily of native species. Shale hogbacks support James' frankenia (*Frankenia jamesii*), Indian ricegrass (*Oryzopsis hymenoides*) and the rare Arkansas River feverfew (*Bolophyta tetraeuris*) and round-leaf four-o'clock (*Oxybaphus rotundifolius*). Surrounding grasslands are dominated by New Mexico feathergrass (*Stipa neomexicana*), Indian ricegrass, dropseed (*Sporobolus* sp.), squirreltail (*Elymus elymoides*), and blue grama (*Bouteloua gracilis*) with a few patches of weedy species such as mustards (*Descurainia* sp.), cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*), and Russian thistle (*Salsola* sp.). Hogbacks to the northeast support pinon - juniper woodlands. Grasslands to the south are highly degraded.

## Key Environmental Factors

No Data

## Climate Description

No Data

## Land Use History

Some evidence of grazing in the past (i.e. just a few cow droppings, probably from a previous year). No evidence of any other current land uses.

## Cultural Features

No Data

## SITE DESIGN

Site Map P - Partial Mapped Date 02/18/1996

Designer Spackman, S.C.

## Boundary Justification

Boundary includes the extent of the shale hogbacks and all of the known occurrences associated with the hogbacks. Boundary also includes some adjacent high quality grasslands.

Primary Area 1,277.97 Acres 517.18 Hectares

## SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B2: Very High Biodiversity Significance

## Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site contains four significant element occurrences: excellent (A-ranked) and good (B-ranked)

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occurrences of two globally imperiled (G2/S2) plants and one good (B-ranked) occurrence of a globally vulnerable (G3/S3) plant species within the context of high quality communities. Included is one of the two largest known occurrences of round-leaf four-o'clock (*Oxybaphus rotundifolius*). Other rare plants include Pueblo goldenweed (*Oenopsis* sp 1) and Barneby's fever-few (*Bolophyta tetraneuris*). There is also an extant occurrence of the globally vulnerable(G3/S3) Rocky Mountain bladderpod (*Lesquerella calcicola*). Overall, the area is in excellent condition with only minimal cattle grazing on the barrens.

Other Values Rank No Data

## Other Values Comments

No Data

## LAND MANAGEMENT ISSUES

### Land Use Comments

No Data

### Natural Hazard Comments

Rattlesnakes are probably present.

### Exotics Comments

Swales between the hogbacks and intermittent drainages that cross the hogbacks are weedy in places. Weeds include mustards (*Descurainia* sp.), cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*), and Russian thistle (*Salsola* sp.).

### Offsite

No Data

### Information Needs

Plans of landowners, willingness to sell, etc.

## 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>
23147	<i>Oxybaphus rotundifolius</i>	round-leaf four-o'clock	G2	S2	Yes
20399	<i>Bolophyta tetraneuris</i>	Barneby's fever-few	G3	S3	No
23147	<i>Oxybaphus rotundifolius</i>	round-leaf four-o'clock	G2	S2	Yes
19251	<i>Oenopsis</i> sp. 1	Pueblo goldenweed	G2	S2	Yes
21031	<i>Lesquerella calcicola</i>	Rocky Mountain bladderpod	G3	S3	No

## REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
192561	Kelso, S., N. W. Bower, K. E. Heckman, P. M. Beardsley, D. G. Greve. 2003. Geobotany of the Niobrara Chalk Barrens in Colorado: A Study of Edaphic Endemism. Western North American Naturalist 63(3) 299-313.
159555	Neely, B., and K. Gellenbeck. 1991. Short-form Preserve Design for Yampa River at Coal Bank Gulch, Routt County, Colorado.

## ADDITIONAL TOPICS

### Additional Topics

No Data

## VERSION

<b>Version Date</b>	02/18/1996
<b>Version Author</b>	Spackman, S.C.

## Disclaimer

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