

# Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Gotera Rincon

Site Code S.USCOHP\*890

## IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 1504 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 370512N  
State Colorado Longitude 1033734W

| <u>Quad Code</u> | <u>Quad Name</u>  |
|------------------|-------------------|
| 37103-A5         | Cobert Mesa North |
| 37103-A6         | Pine Canyon       |

### County

Las Animas (CO)

| <u>Watershed Code</u> | <u>Watershed Name</u> |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 11040001              | Cimarron headwaters   |

## SITE DESCRIPTION

|                   |               |                 |
|-------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Minimum Elevation | 5,774.00 Feet | 1,759.92 Meters |
| Maximum Elevation | 6,364.00 Feet | 1,939.75 Meters |

### Site Description

Gotera Rincon is located in southeastern Las Animas County, on the Mesa de Maya, approximately six miles from the New Mexico state line. It is characterized by pinon - juniper woodland, with an associated understory predominately composed of shrubs such as oak (*Quercus gambelii*), yucca (*Yucca glauca*), mountain mahogany (*Cercocarpus montanus*), prickly pear (*Opuntia* sp.) and skunkbrush (*Rhus trilobata*). Blue grama (*Bouteloua gracilis*) and sideoats grama (*Bouteloua curtipendula*) dominate the graminoid layer. The aspect varies, but trends to the southeast with 6-20% slopes. Soils are shallow, rocky clay loam which also contains some exposed rim rock.

### 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 01/14/1996  
Designer Pague, C.A.

### Boundary Justification

This site was drawn to protect two plant communities in good condition. The boundary includes the entire reach of the middle portion of Gotera Canyon, the canyon walls including those on the east side of Corbet Canyon, and the tallgrass prairie on Mesa de Maya lying between Corbet and Gotera canyons. All side canyons are also included. The biological elements that are targeted in this site are canyon-dwellers or are limited in distribution by the availability of water.

Primary Area 6,026.67 Acres 2,438.91 Hectares

## SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B2: Very High Biodiversity Significance

### Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site contains a good (B-ranked) occurrence of a globally imperiled (G2?/S2) xeric tallgrass prairie, *Andropogon gerardii* - *Schizachyrium scoparium*, and a good (B-ranked) occurrence of a globally imperiled

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(G2/S2) *Juniperus scopulorum* / *Cercocarpus montanus* woodland. There is also an extant occurrence of the globally vulnerable(G3/S3) Rocky Mountain bladderpod (*Lesquerella calcicola*).

Other Values Rank V3 - Moderate values

## Other Values Comments

There are high wildlife values on the Mesa de Maya.

## LAND MANAGEMENT ISSUES

### Land Use Comments

The area has been used for livestock grazing for more than 100 years.

### Natural Hazard Comments

There are steep cliffs, loose rocks, and bad roads in the area.

### Exotics Comments

No Data

### Offsite

There are no special off-site concerns since the entire region is dominated by livestock grazing.

### Information Needs

There has been no recent inventory of this area. Moreover, there is only the poorest of records of animals.

There is high potential for Mesa de Maya proper, but particularly for the highest elevation areas. Communities have not been updated since 1988.

## 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> |
| 24870           | <i>Andropogon gerardii</i> - <i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i><br>Western Great Plains Herbaceous Vegetation | Xeric Tallgrass Prairie                               | G2?           | S2           | Yes              |
| 24856           | <i>Juniperus scopulorum</i> / <i>Cercocarpus montanus</i><br>Woodland                                     | Foothills Pinyon-Juniper<br>Woodlands/Scarp Woodlands | G2            | S2           | Yes              |
| 21031           | <i>Lesquerella calcicola</i>  | Rocky Mountain bladderpod                             | G3            | S3           | No               |

## REFERENCES

| <u>Reference ID</u> | <u>Full Citation</u>   |
|---------------------|--|
| 198519              | Rondeau, R.J., J.R. Sovell, J.E. Stevens, D. Clark and L. Grunau. 2010. Final Report: Southeast Colorado Survey of Critical Biological Resources 2009. Addendum to the 2007 Survey. Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Fort Collins, CO. |

## ADDITIONAL TOPICS

### Additional Topics

No Data

## VERSION

|                       |             |
|-----------------------|-------------|
| <b>Version Date</b>   | 01/14/1996  |
| <b>Version Author</b> | Pague, C.A. |

## Disclaimer

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