

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Hecla Junction

Site Code S.USCOHP*212

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 908 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 383758N
State Colorado Longitude 1060426W

Quad Code Quad Name

38106-F1 Nathrop
38106-E1 Salida West

County

Chaffee (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name

11020001 Arkansas Headwaters

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	7,400.00 Feet	2,255.52 Meters
Maximum Elevation	7,828.00 Feet	2,385.97 Meters

Site Description

The Hecla Junction site is located in the Arkansas Valley, east of Browns Canyon. It consists of small, rolling hills that are sparsely vegetated with pinon pine (*Pinus edulis*) and one-seeded juniper (*Juniperus monosperma*) with mountain mahogany (*Cercocarpus montanus*) and grasses (*Bouteloua gracilis* and *Oryzopsis hymenoides*). The light brown soils are derived from the Dry Union Formation (Tweto 1979). Highway 285 bisects the site and Highway 291 forms the southern border. The site supports the rare Brandegeee wild buckwheat (*Eriogonum brandegeei*) and Fendler's townsend-daisy (*Townsendia fendleri*). Both plants are indicators of the Dry Union Formation. This Formation is composed from sediments from massive deposits of brown silt, sand and gravel deposited in alluvial fans of the Pliocene age (Karnuta 1995). The Colorado endemic Front Range alum-root (*Heuchera hallii*) also occurs within the site.

Key Environmental Factors

No Data

Climate Description

The site receives an average of 300 days of sunshine each year. A typical summer day is sunny, in the high 70's to low 80's with evening temperatures in the high 40's and low 50's. Annual rainfall is 10.15" and annual snowfall is 30.4" with most snow occurring from the end of October through April.

Land Use History

No Data

Cultural Features

No Data

SITE DESIGN

Site Map Y - Yes Mapped Date 09/29/2009

Designer Panjabi, S.S.

Boundary Justification

The boundary is drawn to include the known occurrence, additional potential habitat, and the local mosaic of plant communities. The boundary was digitized while referencing a one meter digital color orthophoto quad and a 1:24,000 digital quad.

Primary Area 2,403.23 Acres 972.56 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B2: Very High Biodiversity Significance

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Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site contains one of a handful of known occurrences of the globally rare (G1G2/S1S2) Brandegeee wild buckwheat (*Eriogonum brandegeei*), a Colorado endemic restricted to Chaffee and Fremont counties. The population here is in fair (C-ranked) condition. An excellent to good (AB-ranked), a fair (C-ranked) and an extant occurrence of the globally rare (G2/S2) Fendler's townsend-daisy (*Townsendia fendleri*) are also within this site. *Townsendia fendleri* is known only from Colorado and New Mexico.

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>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>
21173	<i>Eriogonum brandegeei</i>	Brandegee wild buckwheat	G1G2	S1S2	Yes
17481	<i>Townsendia fendleri</i>	Fendler's townsend-daisy	G2	S2	Yes
17481	<i>Townsendia fendleri</i>	Fendler's townsend-daisy	G2	S2	No
17481	<i>Townsendia fendleri</i>	Fendler's townsend-daisy	G2	S2	No

REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
198290	Culver, D.R., D. Malone, S.L. Neid, and J. Handwerk. 2009. Final Report: Survey of Critical Biological Resources in Chaffee County. Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Fort Collins, CO.
198293	Karnuta, T. 1995. Road and Riverside Geology of the Upper Arkansas Valley. Geotechnics. Salida, CO.
192747	Tweto, O. 1979. Geologic Map of Colorado, 1:500,000. United States Geological Survey, Department of Interior, and Geologic Survey of Colorado, Denver, CO.

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

Original site design by Spackman, S.C. 1997-04-28. Updated by Spackman, S.C. 2008-07-14. Updated by Culver, D.R. 2009-02-09.

VERSION

Version Date 09/29/2009
Version Author Panjabi, S.S.

Disclaimer

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