

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Hicks Canyon

Site Code S.USCOHP*066

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 1937 Site Class PCA
Site Alias Fox Creek Cemetery
Site Alias Fox Creek Jeep Trail

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 370535N
State Colorado Longitude 1061435W

Quad Code Quad Name

37106-A2 Fox Creek
37106-A3 Osier

County

Conejos (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name

13010005 Conejos
13010002 Alamosa-Trinchera

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	8,380.00 Feet	2,554.00 Meters
Maximum Elevation	9,350.00 Feet	2,850.00 Meters

Site Description

The site is predominately characterized by open grasslands to the east and scattered woodlands and forests with grassland openings to the west. Ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) and Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) are the common evergreen species. Aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) is present in scattered patches. Two non-native species, smooth brome (*Bromus inermis*) and yellow sweetclover (*Melilotus officinalis*), are common in some areas. Much of the adjacent area to the south and east is currently being subdivided and sold for development.

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 01/10/2000
Designer Kettler, S.M.

Boundary Justification

The boundary encompasses the Ripley milkvetch locations and enough adjacent habitat to include open grasslands or savanna-like vegetation and the numerous small drainages downstream from known Ripley milkvetch locations. This boundary is intended to allow some seed dispersal into currently unoccupied but apparently suitable habitat and provide habitat for plant pollinators. Seed dispersal mechanisms considered important for this species are small mammals (presumably kangaroo rats) caching the seed pods and precipitation events washing the seeds downhill (Julie Burt - pers. comm.). A suspected pollinator of this plant is a common bee that could nectar on species other than Ripley milkvetch in the same habitat.

Primary Area 3,390.40 Acres 1,372.05 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

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Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site contains one good and one fair occurrence of a plant species which is vulnerable on a global scale.

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>
18485	<i>Astragalus ripleyi</i>	Ripley milkvetch	G3	S2	No
18485	<i>Astragalus ripleyi</i>	Ripley milkvetch	G3	S2	No
18485	<i>Astragalus ripleyi</i>	Ripley milkvetch	G3	S2	No
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18485	<i>Astragalus ripleyi</i>	Ripley milkvetch	G3	S2	Yes
18485	<i>Astragalus ripleyi</i>	Ripley milkvetch	G3	S2	No
18485	<i>Astragalus ripleyi</i>	Ripley milkvetch	G3	S2	No
18485	<i>Astragalus ripleyi</i>	Ripley milkvetch	G3	S2	No
18485	<i>Astragalus ripleyi</i>	Ripley milkvetch	G3	S2	No
18485	<i>Astragalus ripleyi</i>	Ripley milkvetch	G3	S2	No

REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
165924	Kettler, S., J. Rocchio, R. Schorr, J. Burt. 2000. Biological Inventory of Rio Grande and Conejos Counties, Colorado. Unpublished report prepared for The Nature Conservancy. 234 pp.

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date 01/10/2000

Version Author Kettler, S.M.

Disclaimer

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