

# Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Highline Lake

Site Code S.USCOHP\*6760

## IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 1603 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 391709N  
State Colorado Longitude 1084854W

Quad Code Quad Name  
39108-C7 Highline Lake

County  
Mesa (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name  
14010005 Colorado headwaters-Plateau

## SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	4,700.00 Feet	1,433.00 Meters
Maximum Elevation	5,100.00 Feet	1,554.00 Meters

### Site Description

This site, north of the Highline Canal, contains gently rolling clay hills covered with desert shrubs, separated by shallow washes and greasewood flats. It is an area of low relief, with elevations from 4700 to 5100 feet. Drainages, including Mack Wash and Coyote Wash, flow southeastward into the canal. One major highway, State Highway 139, bisects the site. The Highline Lake State Recreation Area is within the site. Several plant communities typical of this country are represented, forming a mosaic of vegetation types dominated by saltbushes. Three rare plant species are found in the site. In much of the flat bottomland, the native grasses, such as galleta, have been replaced by cheatgrass. The area has been moderately grazed. Prairie dog colonies provide sites for burrowing owls, which use their mounds for nesting and roosting. These owls are uncommon in the Grand Valley, and the species is declining in Colorado. Although loss of habitat may be responsible in some cases, there are sites with suitable habitat that no longer have owls, so other unidentified factors are apparently involved. In this respect, results of this inventory are encouraging. Prior to 1996, there were no Mesa County records for burrowing owls at CNHP. Fourteen new records have been added, mostly in the area between the Bookcliffs and Highline Canal. Records for Ord's kangaroo rat were likewise greatly increased, from nine to 32, during the survey.

### 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 12/01/1996  
Designer Lyon, M.J.

### Boundary Justification

The boundary is drawn to include a collection of element occurrences. It follows the Highline Canal on the south, a gravel road on the east and north and a paved road on the west. Most of the area surrounded by these roads is suitable habitat for the species of concern.

Primary Area 11,231.48 Acres 4,545.24 Hectares

## SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

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## Biodiversity Significance Comments

Rank is based on a fair occurrence of a globally imperiled (G2?/S2?) community.

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

More field work is needed to verify quality of globally vulnerable plants.

## 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>
18794	<i>Oreocarya elata</i>	cliff dweller's candlestick catseye	G3	S2	No
18559	<i>Eriogonum contortum</i>	grand buckwheat	G3	S2	No
24655	<i>Atriplex confertifolia</i> / <i>Leymus salinus</i> Shrubland	Cold Desert Shrublands	G3G5	S3	No
20544	<i>Allium nevadense</i>	Nevada onion	G4	S2	No
24633	<i>Atriplex gardneri</i> / <i>Leymus salinus</i> Dwarf-shrubland	Gardner's Mat Saltbush Shrublands	G2?	S2?	Yes
18559	<i>Eriogonum contortum</i>	grand buckwheat	G3	S2	No
18794	<i>Oreocarya elata</i>	cliff dweller's candlestick catseye	G3	S2	No

## REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
-	No Data

## ADDITIONAL TOPICS

### Additional Topics

No Data

## VERSION

<b>Version Date</b>	12/01/1996
<b>Version Author</b>	Lyon, M.J.

## Disclaimer

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