

# Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Hotchkiss Hills

Site Code S.USCOHP\*108

## IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 370 Site Class PCA  
Site Alias Alum Gulch Upland

### 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 384534N  
State Colorado Longitude 1074222W

### Quad Code Quad Name

38107-G6 Hotchkiss  
38107-F6 Grand View Mesa

### County

Delta (CO)

<u>Watershed Code</u>	<u>Watershed Name</u>
14020004	North Fork Gunnison

## SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	5,300.00 Feet	1,615.00 Meters
Maximum Elevation	6,300.00 Feet	1,920.24 Meters

### Site Description

The Hotchkiss Hills site consists of a group of treeless, steep-sided adobe hills, rising from a relatively flat bottomland. Elevations range from about 5,300-6,300 ft. The bottomlands are in poor condition, weedy with hornhead, annual grasses, and mustards, but the uplands have fewer weeds, and are home to one of our area's most rare endemic plants. Although the sides of the hills have little vegetation, the tops have a sparse cover of shadscale, gardner saltbrush and perennial bunchgrasses, including galleta and salina wild rye. Mat saltbrush, budsage and spiny horsebrush are also common. The Colorado desert-parsley is most abundant on the gently sloping or level tops of hills, especially on the south just above the steep slopes. They also sometimes grow along the sides of drainages near the top, and may extend down onto the steep south-facing hillsides. The windswept edges of the highest hills, which have the most harsh growing conditions, are in some places covered with a solid carpet of the desert-parsley in April. The yellow flowers of the parsley are often mixed with the purple flowers of a related species, *Cymopterus bulbosus*, or bulbous spring-parsley. Many bees were observed visiting both species. Later in summer, the plants' above-ground parts die and all but disappear. The area is grazed by sheep early and late in the year. There is heavy recreational use at the base of the hills, mainly for target practice and ORV use. Some ORVs climb up the steep sides of the hills to a road that runs along the top.

### Key Environmental Factors

No Data

### Climate Description

Arid semi-desert.

### Land Use History

Sheep grazing in early spring and late fall.

### Cultural Features

No Data

## SITE DESIGN

Site Map Y - Yes Mapped Date 12/01/1997  
Designer Lyon, M.J.

### Boundary Justification

The boundary encompasses the tops and sides of the hills on which the Colorado desert-parsley occurs, both on BLM and private land. Surrounding bottomlands are not potential habitat for the plants.

Primary Area	3,062.89 Acres	1,239.51 Hectares
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## SITE SIGNIFICANCE

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Biodiversity Significance Rank B2: Very High Biodiversity Significance

## Biodiversity Significance Comments

The site supports an excellent (A-ranked) occurrence of a globally imperiled (G2G3/S2S3) plant, Colorado desert-parsley (*Lomatium concinnum*).

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

Bottoms of hills very weedy, with *Eremopyrum triticeum*, *Ranunculus testiculatus*, *Erysimum repandum*, *Alyssum minus*, and *Chorispora tenella*.

### Offsite

No Data

### Information Needs

Need to study the effects of the sheep grazing on *Lomatium*. Watch the sheep and see what they eat. Identify pollinator bee species. Compare this site with the best sites in Montrose County to see what characteristics they share.

## 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>
23232	<i>Lomatium concinnum</i>	Colorado desert-parsley	G2G3	S2S3	Yes

## REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
178765	Lyon, P. and E. Williams. 1997. Final Report: Natural Heritage Biological Survey of Delta County. Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Fort Collins, CO.

## ADDITIONAL TOPICS

### Additional Topics

No Data

## VERSION

Version Date 12/01/1997  
Version Author Lyon, M.J.

## Disclaimer

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