

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Huff

Site Code S.USCOHP*1311

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 1995 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 384536N
State Colorado Longitude 1081507W

Quad Code Quad Name

38108-F2	Roubideau
38108-G3	Dominguez
38108-G2	Point Creek
38108-F3	Good Point

County

Delta (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name

14020005 Lower Gunnison

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	4,800.00	Feet	1,463.00	Meters
Maximum Elevation	5,480.00	Feet	1,670.00	Meters

Site Description

This site is of prime importance as the foremost location in Colorado of the Colorado hookless cactus. Populations here have up to two thousand individuals, in contrast to the much smaller clusters of the cactus scattered elsewhere along the river, where average sized occurrences are less than 50 plants. This may be the major center of distribution for the species in Colorado. This location is used as a study site by researchers associated with Mesa State College. Typical habitat for the cactus is on clay soils derived from Mancos shale, with rounded cobbles of basalt scattered over the surface. Plants are often concentrated on the lips of the benches (Pleistocene pediments). They may be under shrubs, or in the open. They are rarely on steep hills or in the greasewood flats along the river. Frequent associated species are shadscale, galleta, broom snakeweed, prickly pear cactus, cheatgrass, and globemallow. In addition to the cactus, this site has excellent examples of common desert shrub plant communities, and the greatest concentration that we have seen of the white tailed antelope squirrel. The shadscale/galleta community forms a mosaic with black sage/salina wildrye. There are very few weedy species. Associated native species include snakeweed, hedgehog cactus, Mormon tea, Indian paintbrush, Indian ricegrass, low rabbitbrush. Along the river, the flat bottomlands have a dense stand of greasewood. The antelope squirrels were found here and in the rocky draw along Road 730. CNHP found nine sub-populations, which comprise three populations. This species had previously been documented only once in Delta County, an historic record mapped in what is now downtown Delta.

Key Environmental Factors

No Data

Climate Description

Arid semi-desert.

Land Use History

No Data

Cultural Features

No Data

SITE DESIGN

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

Boundary Justification

This site includes the large *Sclerocactus* population, on both sides of the Gunnison River. Pollination studies

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have shown that the major pollinator, a small green bee, is capable of crossing the river, so the occurrences on either side may be genetically connected. Also included is surrounding territory with good examples of common plant communities.

Primary Area 2,507.46 Acres 1,014.74 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B2: Very High Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site contains two good (B-ranked) occurrences of the globally imperiled (G2G3/S2S3) Colorado hookless cactus (*Sclerocactus glaucus*). There are also occurrences of globally common communities.

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 Rank</u>	<u>State Rank</u>	<u>Driving Site Rank</u>
<u>State ID</u>	<u>State Scientific Name</u>	<u>State Common Name</u>			
24753	<i>Atriplex confertifolia</i> / <i>Pleuraphis jamesii</i> Shrubland	Cold Desert Shrublands	G3G5	S2	No
24636	<i>Sarcobatus vermiculatus</i> / <i>Suaeda moquinii</i> Shrubland	Saline Bottomland Shrublands	GUQ	S2S3	No
16984	<i>Sclerocactus glaucus</i>	Colorado hookless cactus	G2G3	S2S3	Yes
16984	<i>Sclerocactus glaucus</i>	Colorado hookless cactus	G2G3	S2S3	Yes
24655	<i>Atriplex confertifolia</i> / <i>Leymus salinus</i> Shrubland	Cold Desert Shrublands	G3G5	S3	No
24753	<i>Atriplex confertifolia</i> / <i>Pleuraphis jamesii</i> Shrubland	Cold Desert Shrublands	G3G5	S2	No
24753	<i>Atriplex confertifolia</i> / <i>Pleuraphis jamesii</i> Shrubland	Cold Desert Shrublands	G3G5	S2	No

REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
198627	Lyon, P. and B. Kuhn. 2010. Rare Plant Survey of Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area.
179190	Lyon, P. and E. Williams. 1998. 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 12/09/2010
Version Author Kuhn, B. and M.J. Lyon

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