

# Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Jacks Creek Uplands

Site Code S.USCOHP\*204

## IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 1405 Site Class PCA  
Site Alias Jacks Creek

### 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 381049N  
State Colorado Longitude 1061832W

Quad Code Quad Name  
38106-B3 Lake Mountain NE

County  
Saguache (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name  
13010004 Saguache

## SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	8,200.00 Feet	2,499.00 Meters
Maximum Elevation	8,600.00 Feet	2,621.00 Meters

### Site Description

The Jacks Creek Upland site is comprised of volcanic ridges with a north-south orientation. The vegetation is primarily dominated by a short to mid grass prairie with ring muhly (*Muhlenbergia filiculmis*), Arizona fescue (*Festuca arizonica*), mountain muhly (*Muhlenbergia montana*), and blue grama (*Bouteloua gracilis*). Lichens dominate the rock outcrops. The rare rock-loving neoparrya (*Neoparrya lithophila*), a forb in the carrot family, is most numerous in rock crevices on ridges above north-facing slopes. The neoparrya is also found below the ridges of the west-facing slopes, but the numbers are lower. The majority of the site is free from invasive weeds, although Jacks Creek road, just outside of the site, has a healthy population of henbane (*Hyoscyamus niger*), one of the few places in Saguache County where we found this exotic plant. The primary use of this area is light to moderate livestock grazing. We also observed numerous pronghorn (*Antilocapra americana*) and a mountain lion (*Felis concolor*). The site is approximately 1,100 acres in size, ranging in elevation from 8,200 to 8,600 feet (2,500-2,620 meters).

### Key Environmental Factors

No Data

### Climate Description

No Data

### Land Use History

No Data

### Cultural Features

No Data

## SITE DESIGN

Site Map P - Partial Mapped Date 02/14/1998  
Designer Rondeau, R.J.

### Boundary Justification

The boundary is drawn to encompass the extent of the metapopulation of the rock-loving neoparrya. We used a 7.5 minute quadrangle and a 1990 NAPP infrared aerial photography to assess the placement of the boundary.

Primary Area 1,081.45 Acres 437.65 Hectares

## SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

### Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site supports a large (B-ranked) population of the globally vulnerable (G3/S3) rock-loving neoparrya

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(*Aletes lithophilus*), a Colorado endemic plant. This forb is restricted to south-central Colorado.

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

Future Research Needs: We know that this plant requires soils of volcanic origin and that it thrives on north-facing slopes within the a 7,000 to 9,000 foot elevation band. These criteria are met throughout the San Juan foothills, yet the plant is rarely present. Future studies are needed to help understand what other factors are limiting this plant to these few sites.

### 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>
22904	<i>Aletes lithophilus</i>	rock-loving neoparrya	G3	S3	Yes

### REFERENCES

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

### ADDITIONAL TOPICS

## Additional Topics

No Data

### VERSION

Version Date	02/14/1998
Version Author	Rondeau, R.J.

### Disclaimer

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