

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name La Jara Creek Uplands

Site Code S.USCOHP*074

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 1028 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 370958N
State Colorado Longitude 1061446W

<u>Quad Code</u>	<u>Quad Name</u>
37106-B2	Vicente Canyon
37106-B3	La Jara Canyon

County

Conejos (CO)

<u>Watershed Code</u>	<u>Watershed Name</u>
13010002	Alamosa-Trinchera

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	8,200.00 Feet	2,499.00 Meters
Maximum Elevation	9,350.00 Feet	2,850.00 Meters

Site Description

The site is characterized by narrow canyons with riparian vegetation along La Jara Creek and Canyon del Rancho. Steep slopes rise to mesas in the center of the site. The steep north facing slopes are dominated by ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) and Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) with some aspen (*Populus tremuloides*). Patches of sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*) and scattered mountain mahogany (*Cercocarpus montanus*) occur on the site. Slopes at the south end of the site have eroded heavily this year and some areas appear to have been heavily grazed in the past by livestock or wildlife.

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 01/25/2000
Designer Reid, M. and S.M. Kettler

Boundary Justification

The main threat to the rock-loving neoparrya would be physical disturbance of the habitat. The boundary was delineated to include the known extent of the plant population and enough of the adjacent area to incorporate portions of other habitat types. This additional habitat was included based on the assumption that pollinators of the rock-loving neoparrya may also require other types of habitat. The pollinators are unknown, consequently we are not certain that the amount of adjacent habitat is sufficient to support those species. With more information, these boundaries may change. The boundary also 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.

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Primary Area 1,594.76 Acres

645.38 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site contains an excellent occurrence of a plant species which is vulnerable on a global scale, and a good 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>
22904	<i>Aletes lithophilus</i>	rock-loving neoparrya	G3	S3	Yes
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 01/25/2000

Version Author Reid, M. and S.M. Kettler

Disclaimer

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