

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Lawhead Gulch

Site Code S.USCOHP*10491

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 1713 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>
2465	S.USCOHP*27034	Adobe Hills

LOCATORS

Nation United States Latitude 384755N
State Colorado Longitude 1075331W

Quad Code Quad Name

38107-G8 Orchard City
38107-G7 Lazear

County

Delta (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name

14020005 Lower Gunnison

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	5,200.00 Feet	1,585.00 Meters
Maximum Elevation	5,500.00 Feet	1,676.00 Meters

Site Description

Lawhead Gulch is a broad swale, draining much of Redlands Mesa. The wetlands in the bottom are covered with greasewood and saltgrass. Just west of the gulch, the dry adobe hills with shadscale and mat saltbrush are home to one of the world's two best populations of the clay-loving buckwheat. This is the site where the plant was first discovered, and is the type locality for the species. There are three minor sub-populations of the plant, as well as the primary one which has thousands of individual plants. Associated plants include budsage, winterfat, viscid rabbitbrush, and spiny horsebrush. Surrounding flat areas are very weedy, with Russian knapweed and halogeton. However, the weeds do not extend onto the more barren slopes where the buckwheat is found. The buckwheat seems to be restricted to the very light gray soils derived from mancos shale, mapped as chipeta silty clay loam, 3 to 30 percent slopes, by the Soil Conservation Service. This soil is described as being unsuitable for crops because of the slope, shallow soil depth, and low available water capacity. Planting grass by preparing the seedbed and drilling the seed produces only fair results, and would provide only limited grazing for livestock. Limitations for urban development include depth to bedrock, shrink-swell potential, slope, and corrosivity (USDA 1981). The site includes the twenty acre oasis reservoir, which is important for waterfowl and migrating birds, and some extensive wetlands with cattail marshes, giant reeds and saltgrass downstream. There are two abandoned houses and some out-buildings on the site, and two roads pass through it. The site adjoins about 1,400 acres of BLM land on the east, and one 80 acre parcel which is privately owned.

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

The site includes four subpopulations of the clay-loving buckwheat, which occur on either side of the reservoir, and the adjacent gulch. A mosaic of common plant communities is represented.

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Primary Area 1,950.32 Acres

789.27 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B2: Very High Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

The biodiversity significance rank is based on a good (B-ranked) occurrence of a globally imperiled (G2/S2) plant, clay-loving wild buckwheat (*Eriogonum pelinophilum*). There are also good (B-ranked) and fair (C-ranked) occurrences of globally common natural 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>			
24636	<i>Sarcobatus vermiculatus</i> / <i>Suaeda moquinii</i> Shrubland	Saline Bottomland Shrublands	GUQ	S2S3	No
17458	<i>Eriogonum pelinophilum</i>	clay-loving wild buckwheat	G2	S2	Yes
24687	<i>Typha (latifolia, angustifolia)</i> Western Herbaceous Vegetation	Narrow-leaf Cattail Marsh	G5	S4	No
17458	<i>Eriogonum pelinophilum</i>	clay-loving wild buckwheat	G2	S2	No
17458	<i>Eriogonum pelinophilum</i>	clay-loving wild buckwheat	G2	S2	No
17458	<i>Eriogonum pelinophilum</i>	clay-loving wild buckwheat	G2	S2	No

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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