

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Little Dominguez Creek

Site Code S.USCOHP*282

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 1560 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 384704N
State Colorado Longitude 1082140W

<u>Quad Code</u>	<u>Quad Name</u>
38108-G3	Dominguez
38108-G4	Triangle Mesa
38108-F4	Escalante Forks

County

Delta (CO)
Mesa (CO)

<u>Watershed Code</u>	<u>Watershed Name</u>
14020005	Lower Gunnison

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	4,800.00 Feet	1,463.00 Meters
Maximum Elevation	5,800.00 Feet	1,768.00 Meters

Site Description

Little Dominguez Creek flows north from the Uncompahgre Plateau to join Big Dominguez Creek just above its confluence with the Gunnison River at the Delta-Mesa county line. The major upland vegetation in the lower valley is the common desert shrub community of shadscale with galleta. Associated species found in this community are Indian rice grass, needle-and-threadgrass, broom snakeweed, hairy golden aster, cheatgrass, Russian thistle, four-wing saltbush, and prickly-pear cactus. Upper slopes have pinon - juniper woodlands. The Grand Junction milkvetch grows on the Morrison formation, on toe slopes with Rocky Mountain juniper, on the creek bank, and in small seasonal drainages. The Colorado hookless cactus is on rocky toe slopes lower in the canyon, near the confluence with Big Dominguez Creek. The riparian zone along the creek has patches of Fremont cottonwood. These appear to be regenerating successfully, and all age classes are represented. There is significant invasion by tamarisk. Other common species along the creek are coyote willow, rubber rabbitbrush, big sagebrush, greasewood, spearleaf rabbitbrush, fragrant goldenrod, scouring rush, reed canary grass, threesquare and softstem bulrushes, inland saltgrass, alkali muhly, alkali sacaton, white prairie aster, and yellow sweetclover. Three plants of significance to CNHP were found along the creek in 2009: variegated horsetail (*Hippochaete variagata*), canyon bog orchid (*Limnorchis ensifolia*) and giant helleborine (*Epipactis gigantea*). The creek is subject to flash floods. There was evidence of recent beaver activity in 1997 and canyon tree frogs were observed in 2010.

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 12/09/2010
Designer Lyon, M.J. and B. Kuhn

Boundary Justification

The site includes the riparian zone along Little Dominguez Creek, which is the habitat for the helleborine

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Little Dominguez Creek

Site Code S.USCOHP*282

orchid, canyon bog orchid and variegated horsetail. It also includes the side slopes where the Colorado hookless cactus and Grand Junction milkvetch are found. The entire watershed is important for proper ecosystem functioning. It is mapped as a separate site from the biologically similar Big Dominguez Creek, because it is recognized by the public and BLM as a distinct area.

Primary Area 975.25 Acres 394.67 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

The site supports a fair (C-ranked) occurrence of the globally imperiled (G2G3/S2S3) Colorado hookless cactus (*Sclerocactus glaucus*) and a good (B-ranked) occurrence of the globally vulnerable to secure (G3G5/S2) cold desert shrubland community (*Atriplex confertifolia* / *Pleuraphis jamesii*). There is also a poor (D-ranked) occurrence of the globally imperiled (G2G3/S2S3) Naturita milkvetch (*Astragalus naturitensis*) and fair (C-ranked) occurrences of the globally vulnerable (G3Q/S3) Grand Junction milkvetch (*Astragalus linifolius*).

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>
24753	<i>Atriplex confertifolia</i> / <i>Pleuraphis jamesii</i> Shrubland	Cold Desert Shrublands	G3G5	S2	No
20453	<i>Astragalus linifolius</i>	Grand Junction milkvetch	G3Q	S3	No
17626	<i>Epipactis gigantea</i>	helleborine	G4	S2S3	No
16984	<i>Sclerocactus glaucus</i>	Colorado hookless cactus	G2G3	S2S3	Yes
16984	<i>Sclerocactus glaucus</i>	Colorado hookless cactus	G2G3	S2S3	No
19160	<i>Hyla arenicolor</i>	Canyon Treefrog	G5	S2	No
21647	<i>Astragalus naturitensis</i>	Naturita milkvetch	G2G3	S2S3	No
20453	<i>Astragalus linifolius</i>	Grand Junction milkvetch	G3Q	S3	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.
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

Original site design by Lyon, M.J. 1997-12-01.

VERSION

Version Date 12/09/2010

Copyright © 2011. Colorado State University. Colorado Natural Heritage Program. All Rights Reserved.

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Little Dominguez Creek

Site Code S.USCOHP*282

Version Author Lyon, M.J. and B. Kuhn

Disclaimer

These data are a product and property of Colorado State University, Colorado Natural Heritage Program (CNHP). These data are strictly "on loan" and should be considered "works in progress". Data maintained in the Colorado Natural Heritage Program database are an integral part of ongoing research at CSU and reflect the observations of many scientists, institutions and our current state of knowledge. These data are acquired from various sources, with varying levels of accuracy, and are continually being updated and revised. Many areas have never been surveyed and the absence of data in any particular geographic area does not necessarily mean that species or ecological communities of concern are not present. These data should not be regarded as a substitute for on-site surveys required for environmental assessments. Absence of evidence is NOT evidence of absence. Absence of any data does not mean that other resources of special concern do not occur, but rather CNHP files do not currently contain information to document this presence. CNHP is not responsible for whether other, non-CNHP data providers have secured landowner permission for data collected.

These data are provided for non-commercial purposes only. Under no circumstances are data to be distributed in any fashion to outside parties. To ensure accurate application of data, tabular and narrative components must be evaluated in conjunction with spatial components. Failure to do so constitutes a misuse of the data. The Colorado Natural Heritage Program shall have no liability or responsibility to the data users, or any other person or entity with respect to liability, loss, or damage caused or alleged to be caused directly or indirectly by the data, including but not limited to any interruption of service, loss of business, anticipatory profits or indirect, special, or consequential damages resulting from the use of operation of the data. Data users hereby agree to hold CNHP, Colorado State University, and the State of Colorado harmless from any claim, demand, cause of action, loss, damage or expense from or related to data users use of or reliance on the data, regardless of the cause or nature thereof, and even in the event that such cause is attributable to the negligence or misconduct of CNHP.

These data are provided on an as-is basis, as-available basis without warranties of any kind, expressed or implied, INCLUDING (BUT NOT LIMITED TO) WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY, FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE, AND NON-INFRINGEMENT. Although CNHP maintains high standards of data quality control, CNHP, Colorado State University, and the State of Colorado further expressly disclaim any warranty that the data are error-free or current as of the date supplied