

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Little Gypsum Valley

Site Code S.USCOHP*21251

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 923 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 380951N
State Colorado Longitude 1085530W

Quad Code Quad Name
38108-B8 Anderson Mesa

County
San Miguel (CO)
Montrose (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name
14030002 Upper Dolores

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	5,400.00	Feet	1,646.00	Meters
Maximum Elevation	5,861.00	Feet	1,786.00	Meters

Site Description

This site is located in southwestern Montrose County extending partially into extreme northwestern San Miguel County. The site circumscribes Little Gypsum Valley, the continuation of Big Gypsum Valley north of the Dolores River. The geologic features of the area include Quaternary Landslide Formation, and the Jurassic, Morrison, Summerville, and Entrada formations. The valley is the result of a large sea embayment separated from the remaining sea that covered this area in the Pennsylvanian Age. Upon evaporation of this sea, its salts became concentrated in domes overlain with sedimentary rock creating the Paradox Formation. Once these sedimentary rocks were breached by erosion the domes comprised of soluble salt and gypsum were washed away and the flanking structures collapsed leaving broad valleys at Paradox, Gypsum, and Dry creeks. Soils consist of the Mikim composition characterized by ustic torriothents, fine-loamy, mixed (calcareous), and mesic soils. The Naturita milkvetch was found on a low sandstone hill, where bedrock of the Salt Wash member of the Morrison Formation was exposed above the Mancos Shale of the valley bottom. This was a small population, but the species appears to be widely distributed in the western parts of San Miguel and Montrose counties in suitable habitat. A previous herbarium record from this area listed the habitat as "open pinon - juniper woodland with sagebrush openings". The little penstemon record is taken from a herbarium specimen at the University of Colorado. Its habitat was given as "gently sloping valley floor, steep driveway." Other species documented in the past include the Yuma skipper and Gray Vireo.

Key Environmental Factors

No Data

Climate Description

No Data

Land Use History

The valley has been intensely grazed in the past and at the present.

Cultural Features

No Data

SITE DESIGN

Site Map Y - Yes Mapped Date 10/16/2005
Designer Lyon, M.J.

Boundary Justification

The Little Gypsum Valley boundary was drawn to encompass the occurrences of Gypsum Valley cat-eye (*Cryptantha gypsophila*), short-stem beardtongue (*Penstemon breviculus*), and Naturita milkvetch (*Astragalus naturitensis*). It includes the entire area that is mapped as the Paradox member of the Hermosa

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Little Gypsum Valley
Formation.

Site Code S.USCOHP*21251

Primary Area 2,510.72 Acres 1,016.05 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B2: Very High Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site contains an extant occurrence of a globally critically imperiled (G2/S2) plant, *Cryptantha gypsophila*, a fair (C-ranked) occurrence of a globally imperiled (G2G3/S2S3) plant, Naturita milkvetch (*Astragalus naturitensis*), and a historical occurrence of the globally vulnerable (G3/S2) little penstemon (*Penstemon breviculus*).

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>			
21647	<i>Astragalus naturitensis</i>	Naturita milkvetch	G2G3	S2S3	No
23967	<i>Penstemon breviculus</i>	little penstemon	G3	S2	No
40346	<i>Cryptantha gypsophila</i>	Gypsum Valley cateye	G2	S2	Yes

REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
194256	Lyon, P. and J. Hanson. 2006. Final Report: 2005 Rare Plant Survey of San Juan Public Lands, Colorado. Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Fort Collins, CO.

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

Original site design by Lyon, M.J. and J.R. Sovell 2000-03-13.

VERSION

Version Date 10/16/2005
Version Author Lyon, M.J.

Disclaimer

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Little Gypsum Valley

Site Code S.USCOHP*21251

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