

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Lower Greasewood Gulch

Site Code S.USCOHP*27016

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 2460 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 400828N
State Colorado Longitude 1082440W

Quad Code Quad Name
40108-B4 Rough Gulch

County

Rio Blanco (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name
14050006 Piceance-Yellow

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	5,800.00 Feet	1,767.84 Meters
Maximum Elevation	6,300.00 Feet	1,920.24 Meters

Site Description

This site is located in central Rio Blanco County within the Piceance Basin, approximately 2.25 air miles due south from the White River, in a wide gulch that runs west/northwest from Greasewood Creek (which runs south from Yellow Creek). The geology consists of the Uinta Formation with tan shales and Green River Formation with white shale. The gulch is bounded by low hills that are sparsely vegetated with scattered junipers. Where the rare narrow-stem gilia is dominant, associated species include fringed sage (*Artemisia frigida*), Wyoming sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata* ssp. *wyomingensis*), adobe milkweed (*Asclepias cryptoceras*), desert alyssum (*Allysum desetorum*), dragon milkvetch (*Astragalus lutosus*), shadscale (*Atriplex confertifolia*), false flax (*Camelina* sp.), mountain mahogany (*Cercocarpus montanus*), sandaster (*Chaetopappa ercoides*), cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*), common purple mustard (*Chorispora tenella*), rubber rabbitbrush (*Chrysothamnus nauseosus*), Barneby's thistle (*Cirsium barnebyi*), hawksbeard (*Crepis* sp.), pinnateleaf tansy mustard (*Descurainia pinnata*), spreading woolstar (*Eriastrum diffusum*), spearleaf wild buckwheat (*Eriogonum lonchophyllum*), ballhead ipomopsis (*Ipomopsis congesta*), snakeweed (*Gutierrezia sarothrae*), boreal chainpod (*Hedysarum boreale*), scarlet gilia (*Ipomopsis aggregata*), stickseed (*Lappula redowskii*), western tansy-aster (*Macarantnera grindelioides*), many-stem stickleaf (*Nuttallia multicaulis*), stemless evening-primrose (*Oenothera caespitosa*), juniper prickly pear (*Opuntia polyacantha*), Indian ricegrass (*Achnatherum hymenoides*), creeping penstemon (*Penstemon caespitosa*), penstemon (*Penstemon* sp.), rock goldenrod (*Petradoria pumila*), Hood's phlox (*Phlox hoodii*), longleaf phlox (*Phlox longifolia*), sharpleaf twinpod (*Physaria acutifolia*), bluebunch wheatgrass (*Pseudoroegneria spicata*), Utah juniper (*Sabina osteosperma*), senecio (*Senecio neomexicana*), perennial twistflower (*Streptanthus cordatus*) and gray horsebrush (*Tetradymia canescens*).

Key Environmental Factors

Drought

Climate Description

In the County, summers are warm or hot in most valleys but are much cooler in the mountains. Winters are cold in the mountains. Summer thunderstorms are prevalent; of the total precipitation, 55% usually falls between April and September. Average seasonal snowfall is 74.4 inches, average day time temperature is 45 degrees and average precipitation is 16.5 inches for Meeker between 1948 -2007 (Western Regional Climate Center 2008).

Land Use History

No Data

Cultural Features

No Data

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SITE DESIGN

Site Map Y - Yes

Mapped Date 12/11/2007

Designer Lyon, M.J. and J. Huggins

Boundary Justification

The boundary is drawn to encompass several locations of narrow-stem gilia, as well as adjacent similar habitat that has not been thoroughly surveyed, but is also likely to contain this species.

Primary Area 934.38 Acres

378.13 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

The site supports an excellent (A-ranked) occurrence of the globally vulnerable (G3/S1) narrow-stem gilia (*Gilia stenothyrsa*). The site also includes a historic occurrence of the globally vulnerable (G3G4T2/S2) Fremont's penstemon (*Penstemon fremontii* var. *glabrescens*) last observed in 1986.

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

Cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*) is ubiquitous. Common purple mustard (*Chorispora tenella*) is also present in several sites.

Offsite

There has been some coal bed methane interest far to the west (Fletcher Gulch) but it has not been profitable to develop yet, so for the moment the area has no imminent development plans.

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>
24426	<i>Penstemon fremontii</i> var. <i>glabrescens</i>	Fremont's beardtongue	G3G4T2	S2	No
18885	<i>Gilia stenothyrsa</i>	narrow-stem gilia	G3	S1	Yes

REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
195026	Culver, D., J. Huggins and P. Lyon. 2008. Final Report: Significant Biological Resources in Rio Blanco County, CO. Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Fort Collins, CO.
195034	WRCC. 2008. Western Regional Climate Center. Division of Atmospheric Sciences, Desert Research Institute. Reno, Nevada. < http://www.wrcc.dri.edu >.

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date 12/11/2007

Version Author Lyon, M.J. and J. Huggins

Disclaimer

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