

# Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name McDonald Mesa

Site Code S.USCOHP\*084

## IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 1915 Site Class PCA  
Site Alias Cottonwood Creek Upland

### 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 384723N  
State Colorado Longitude 1073907W

### Quad Code Quad Name

38107-G6 Hotchkiss

### County

Delta (CO)

### Watershed Code Watershed Name

14020004 North Fork Gunnison

## SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	5,500.00 Feet	1,676.00 Meters
Maximum Elevation	5,800.00 Feet	1,768.00 Meters

### Site Description

This site consists of low adobe foothills east of McDonald Creek. Much of the area has been disturbed, with several roads and a major power line, and is quite weedy. Prairie dog holes are abundant. The hills are sparsely vegetated with shadscale, broom snakeweed, winterfat, bulbous spring parsley, and scorpionweed. Two species found here, poison aster and princes plume, are indicators of selenium in the soil. We found the adobe beardtongue to be abundant in areas with shadscale and snakeweed where much barren clay soil was exposed between the shrubs. These sites occurred primarily on north facing slopes and ridgetops. The species was conspicuously absent from south facing slopes and flat bottomlands with sagebrush and grass. The plants were in full bloom on May 10. The Colorado desert-parsley occurred in one small area along with the adobe beardtongue. However, this was a small population, probably peripheral to the main center to the west (see Hotchkiss Hills site). Soils in this site are mapped as chipeta silty clay, 3 to 30 percent slopes (USDA 1981). These are shallow, well drained soils that overly and were derived from mancos shale.

### 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 boundary was drawn to include the area surveyed, and surrounding area with the same soil type and similar vegetation, which is potential habitat for the adobe beardtongue.

Primary Area 860.95 Acres 348.41 Hectares

## SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

### Biodiversity Significance Comments

Rank is based on a good occurrence of a globally vulnerable plant and a fair occurrence of a globally imperiled plant species.

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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>
23232	<i>Lomatium concinnum</i>	Colorado desert-parsley	G2G3	S2S3	Yes
16795	<i>Penstemon retrorsus</i>	adobe beardtongue	G3	S3	No

### REFERENCES

## Reference ID      Full Citation

-      No Data

### ADDITIONAL TOPICS

## Additional Topics

No Data

### VERSION

Version Date 12/01/1997

Version Author Lyon, M.J.

### Disclaimer

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