

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Menefee Mountain

Site Code S.USCOHP*25382

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 2209 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 371560N
State Colorado Longitude 1081807W

<u>Quad Code</u>	<u>Quad Name</u>
37108-B3	Trail Canyon
37108-C3	Mancos

County

Montezuma (CO)

<u>Watershed Code</u>	<u>Watershed Name</u>
14080107	Mancos

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	6,600.00 Feet	2,011.68 Meters
Maximum Elevation	7,000.00 Feet	2,133.60 Meters

Site Description

This site comprises pinon and juniper covered hillsides of Menefee Mountain immediately above Weber Canyon and East Canyon. The entire mountain of 7,089 acres has been designated a Wilderness Study Area (WSA) by the BLM. Steep canyons radiate from the 6-mile long ridge of Menefee Mountain. While pinon-juniper woodland is the dominant vegetation type at the lower elevations, there are oakbrush and pockets of ponderosa pine and spruce/fir at the higher elevations. The BLM states that the WSA provides outstanding recreation opportunities for the hiker, backpacker and rock climber (BLM 2004). A sister WSA is located to the west at Weber Mesa, and is scheduled to be surveyed in 2005. The highly erodible south-facing slopes of Mancos shale support excellent occurrences of two rare plants that are well adapted to this environment. Abajo penstemon (*Penstemon lentus*) occupies protected areas in gullies and along the canyon rim. It is most abundant on the lower eroded slopes, along the canyon rim and extending down about 50 feet from the top. About five hundred individuals were counted, but it is expected that the population extends to all similar habitat in the area and may have thousands of plants. San Juan gilia (*Gilia haydenii*) was found on very steep, eroding clay slopes above East Creek, where it was the dominant species, with numbers estimated in the thousands.

Key Environmental Factors

No Data

Climate Description

No Data

Land Use History

No Data

Cultural Features

No Data

SITE DESIGN

Site Map Y - Yes Mapped Date 12/08/2004
Designer Lyon, M.J.

Boundary Justification

The boundary incorporates the habitat of San Juan gilia (*Gilia haydenii*) on the lower erodible slopes of Mancos shale. The species is dependent on the erosion and downhill creep of the soft soils. Sufficient area has been incorporated to allow expansion of the plants into adjacent suitable habitat over time.

Primary Area	2,191.88 Acres	887.02 Hectares
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SITE SIGNIFICANCE

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Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site is drawn for an excellent (A-ranked) occurrence of the San Juan gilia (*Gilia haydenii*) which is globally vulnerable (G3/S2). The watchlisted (G4S3) Abajo penstemon (*Penstemon lentus*) is also present at this site.

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

There are many exotic species along the roads, including *Bromus tectorum*, *Carduus nutans*, *Melilotus officinalis*, *Bromus inermis*, *Acroptilon repens*, *Sisymbrium altissimum*, *Salsola australis*, *Marrubium vulgare*, and *Lactuca serriola*. Although they are mainly confined to the roadsides and adjacent private land, monitoring and control where they encroach onto public land would benefit the condition of the WSA. Also, working with the county road department and the adjacent landowner could be worthwhile.

Offsite

No Data

Information Needs

No Data

ASSOCIATED ELEMENTS OF BIODIVERSITY

<u>Element State ID</u>	<u>State Scientific Name</u>	<u>State Common Name</u>	<u>Global Rank</u>	<u>State Rank</u>	<u>Driving Site Rank</u>
17400	<i>Gilia haydenii</i>	San Juan gilia	G3	S2	Yes

REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
192799	BLM. 2005. Wilderness in Durango, Menefee Mountain WSA. http://www.co.blm.gov/sjra/sjra-wild.htm
192772	Lyon, M.J. 2005. Final Report: Survey of Rare Plants. San Juan Public Lands in Dolores and Montezuma counties, Colorado. Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Fort Collins, CO.

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date	12/08/2004
Version Author	Lyon, M.J.

Disclaimer

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