

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Mesa Verde Entrance

Site Code S.USCOHP*25383

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 2210 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 372002N
State Colorado Longitude 1082508W

Quad Code Quad Name
37108-C4 Point Lookout

County

Montezuma (CO)

<u>Watershed Code</u>	<u>Watershed Name</u>
14080107	Mancos
14080202	Mcelmo

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	6,800.00 Feet	2,072.64 Meters
Maximum Elevation	8,427.00 Feet	2,568.55 Meters

Site Description

This site, located near the entrance to Mesa Verde National Park, includes private, BLM and National Park Service lands. It extends north of Highway 160 on BLM land, and south into BLM land and the National Park. Vegetation is primarily pinon and juniper woodland, although much of the pinon pine in the park has been decimated by fire and a recent pine beetle infestation. There are small patches of sagebrush, rabbitbrush, grassland and oakbrush. BLM land north of the highway, where Abajo penstemon (*Penstemon lentus*) and little penstemon (*P. breviculus*) were found, is apparently a firewood cutting area, with much slash on the ground. Multiple use has taken a heavy toll in this area, and it is evidently used as a garbage dump by some of the public. Numerous roads run through the site and are heavily used by off-road vehicles. Exotic species are abundant, especially in wetter areas. Native species associated with the two penstemons include *Chaetopappa ericoides*, *Eriogonum alatum*, *Tetranuris ivesiana*, *Astragalus wingatanus*, and *Cercocarpus montanus*. San Juan gilia (*Gilia haydenii*) occurs on barren clay slopes with little other vegetation just north of Highway 160 and again on the National Park access road between the entrance station and Morehead Village. Gray's townsend-daisy (*Townsendia glabella*) was first collected in this area by Aven Nelson in 1930. A specimen resides at Rocky Mountain Herbarium in Laramie, Wyoming. However, little information was recorded and the exact location was not known. It was not documented again until 2004, when it was found on private land adjacent to the National Park. It is expected that it also occurs within the park and other nearby BLM land on the same unique substrate, a member of the Mancos shale known as the Smoky Hill oyster bench, that contains abundant shell fragments.

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 encompasses element occurrences within the pinon - juniper woodlands and barren eroded

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slopes near the Mesa Verde National Park entrance. It includes all areas on the Point Lookout quadrangle mapped as the Smoky Hill oyster bench member of the Manco Shale, including those that have not yet been surveyed, but are potential habitat for Gray's townsend-daisy (*Townsendia glabella*). Intermingled with these areas are steep erodable slopes that support San Juan gilia (*Gilia haydenii*), little penstemon (*P. breviculus*) and a small mesic site that is the home of large-flowered globemallow (*Iliamna grandiflora*).

Primary Area 3,456.74 Acres 1,398.90 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B2: Very High Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site supports an excellent (A-ranked) occurrence of Gray's townsend-daisy (*Townsendia glabella*), a plant that is globally imperiled (G2/S2). Other globally vulnerable (G3/S2) plants in the site include excellent (A-ranked) and good (B-ranked) occurrences of San Juan gilia (*Gilia haydenii*) and little penstemon (*Penstemon breviculus*). The globally vulnerable (G3) large-flower globemallow (*Iliamna grandiflora*), and the watchlisted (G4S3) Abajo penstemon (*Penstemon lentus*) also occur 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

Exotic species are abundant on the BLM land north of Highway 160. They include cheatgrass, musk thistle, Canada thistle, Russian knapweed and white top (*Bromus tectorum*, *Carduus nutans*, *Cirsium arvense*, *Acrotilon repens*, and *Cardaria* sp.).

Offsite

No Data

Information Needs

No Data

ASSOCIATED ELEMENTS OF BIODIVERSITY

<u>Element</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	No
17400	<i>Gilia haydenii</i>	San Juan gilia	G3	S2	No
23967	<i>Penstemon breviculus</i>	little penstemon	G3	S2	No
20834	<i>Townsendia glabella</i>	Gray's townsend-daisy	G2	S2	Yes

REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
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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