

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Miracle Rock

Site Code S.USCOHP8*3847

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 365 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>
883	S.USWRO1*1045	Colorado National Monument

LOCATORS

Nation United States Latitude 385801N
State Colorado Longitude 1085150W

Quad Code Quad Name
38108-H7 Payne Wash

County
Mesa (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name
14030001 Westwater Canyon

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation - Feet - Meters
Maximum Elevation - Feet - Meters

Site Description

The Miracle Rock site encompasses an isolated mesa overlooking the Coates Creek and Little Dolores River valleys. The vegetation is dominated by piñon-juniper woodlands on the slopes and mesa top. Elevations of the site range from approximately 6700 feet to over 7200 feet on the mesa top. The mesa is somewhat isolated but evidence of cattle use is present. Several roads exist adjacent to the site and a county road passes nearby. The Coates Creek and Little Dolores River floodplains have been heavily altered by agricultural practices and grazing. There is a BLM picnic ground adjacent to the site and hiking trails to the geologic structure known as Miracle Rock.

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 03/15/1996
Designer Kettler, S.M.

Boundary Justification

The current boundary protects the occurrences from direct impacts, and encompasses the mesa top and slopes. Other than direct impacts, such as chaining and fire, these communities are most influenced by climate (West and Van Pelt 1987). Small, isolated mesas were shown to have less diverse small mammal populations than large mesas and may not be representative of some animal communities (Van Pelt 1993). Small mesas may protect representative communities of other groups such as invertebrates.

Primary Area 440.39 Acres 178.22 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B4: Moderate Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

The site encompasses a fair (C-ranked) occurrence of a globally vulnerable (G3/S3) plant community and a good (B-ranked) occurrence of a globally secure (G5/S4) community. *Pinus edulis/Cercocarpus ledifolius* (G3/S3) - C-ranked occurrence. This plant association was previously documented only from northwestern Colorado and from Wayne County, Utah. The occurrence at this site is small but in good condition. The

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overstory of this occurrence is relatively sparse compared with stands reported in northwestern Colorado (Community Characterization Abstract on file at CNHP). *Pinus edulis/Cercocarpus montanus* (G5/S4) - B-ranked occurrence. This plant association is common and well protected throughout the Colorado Plateau, including the nearby Westwater area in Utah (Joel Tuhy - personal communication).

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>
24829	<i>Pinus edulis</i> - <i>Juniperus osteosperma</i> / <i>Cercocarpus intricatus</i> Woodland	Mesic Western Slope Pinyon-Juniper Woodlands	G3	S3	Yes
24830	<i>Pinus edulis</i> - <i>Juniperus</i> spp. / <i>Cercocarpus</i> <i>montanus</i> Woodland	Mesic Western Slope Pinyon-Juniper Woodlands	G5	S4	Yes

REFERENCES

Reference ID Full Citation

- No Data

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date 03/15/1996

Version Author Kettler, S.M.

Disclaimer

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