

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Mountain Island Mesa

Site Code S.USCOHP8*3842

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 149 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 385831N
State Colorado Longitude 1085346W

Quad Code Quad Name
38108-H8 Bieser Creek

County
Mesa (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name
14030001 Westwater Canyon

SITE DESCRIPTION

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

Site Description

The Mountain Island mesa site encompasses an isolated mesa overlooking the Little Dolores River valley. The vegetation is dominated by piñon-juniper woodlands on the slopes and mesa top. Elevations of the site range from approximately 6600 feet to over 7000 feet on the mesa top. The mesa is relatively inaccessible, especially the flats at the top. Several roads exist adjacent to the site and a county road passes nearby. The Little Dolores River floodplain has been heavily altered by agricultural practices and grazing.

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 impact, 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 have been shown to support small mammal communities that are less diverse and not representative of larger mesas (Van Pelt 1993). Small mesas may support representative animal communities of other groups such as invertebrates.

Primary Area 616.26 Acres 249.39 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B5: General Biodiversity Interest

Biodiversity Significance Comments

The site contains a good (B-ranked) occurrence of a G5 community. Pinus edulis/Cercocarpus montanus (G5/S4) - B-ranked occurrence. Similar piñon-juniper woodlands are common and well protected throughout the Colorado Plateau, including the nearby Westwater area in Utah (Joel Tuhy - personal communication).

Other Values Rank No Data

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

REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
-	No Data

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date	03/15/1996
Version Author	Kettler, S.M.

Disclaimer

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