

# Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Naturita South

Site Code S.USCOHP\*21245

## IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 429 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 381246N  
State Colorado Longitude 1083459W

### Quad Code Quad Name

38108-B5 Naturita

### County

Montrose (CO)

### Watershed Code Watershed Name

14030003 San Miguel

## SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	5,700.00 Feet	1,737.00 Meters
Maximum Elevation	5,860.00 Feet	1,786.00 Meters

### Site Description

This PCA occupies a mesa south of the town of Naturita. The area around the town of Naturita was the first known location of Naturita milkvetch, collected by Naturita native and well-known botanist Edwin Payson in 1914. It also is the location of the two largest populations of the little penstemon found this year. Researchers found these occurrences by walking from the west-side of town, up the hill between parallel drainages on the south side of the San Miguel Canyon. The hillsides here are vegetated with pinyon, juniper and mountain mahogany. Several flat mesa tops between the major drainages have deeper soils with big sagebrush. The Naturita milkvetch was found along the canyon rims in sandy soils with Utah juniper, black sagebrush and needle-and-thread grass. It was sparsely scattered in soil pockets of the exposed rimrock. The penstemon, on the other hand, was found near the drainage bottoms on gentle slopes with deeper soils. Other species in the PCA included blue grama, princes plume, scarlet globemallow, four-wing saltbush, mountain mahogany, fendlerbush, thrift mock goldenweed, pinyon pine, sego lily, rough-seed cats-eye, Townsend's Easter daisy, Indian ricegrass, sand aster, fineleaf hymenopappus, gumweed aster, Mormon tea, pincushion, many-lobed groundsel, and blue flax. Much of the area had well developed soil crusts.

### 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 03/13/2000

Designer Lyon, M.J. and J.R. Sovell

### Boundary Justification

The boundary is drawn to include the two rare plant occurrences with some of the adjacent potential habitat. The total potential habitat for these species would extend much farther. Further survey effort could result in enlarging this PCA.

Primary Area 112.93 Acres 45.70 Hectares

## SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

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## Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site contains a fair occurrence of a plant species which is imperiled on a global scale. This site also contains a good occurrence of a plant species which is apparently secure on a global scale.

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>
21647	<i>Astragalus naturitensis</i>	Naturita milkvetch	G2G3	S2S3	Yes
23967	<i>Penstemon breviculus</i>	little penstemon	G3	S2	No

## REFERENCES

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

## ADDITIONAL TOPICS

## Additional Topics

No Data

## VERSION

Version Date 03/13/2000  
Version Author Lyon, M.J. and J.R. Sovell

## Disclaimer

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