

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Needle Rock

Site Code S.USCOHP*10505

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 1183 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 384326N
State Colorado Longitude 1073253W

Quad Code Quad Name

38107-F5 Crawford

County

Delta (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name

14020002 Upper Gunnison
14020004 North Fork Gunnison

SITE DESCRIPTION

| | | |
|-------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Minimum Elevation | 7,000.00 Feet | 2,134.00 Meters |
| Maximum Elevation | 7,800.00 Feet | 2,377.00 Meters |

Site Description

Needle Rock is a neck of volcanic rock which towers 800 feet over the surrounding valley floor. The site is owned by BLM, and is a designated State Natural Area. BLM has provided interpretive signs and a nature trail which receives about 375 visitors each year (CNAP 1997). The south hillsides have a plant community which has a high diversity of shrubs. While the dominant species of the plant association are common, this area has a combination of species which seems to be peculiar to the Crawford area. Shrubs include mountain mahogany, squaw apple, serviceberry, cliff fendlerbush, littleleaf mock orange, adobe beardtongue, and snowberry. With increasing elevation, there is more Gambel's oak, with rock spirea on rock outcrops. The community is in good condition, with very few weeds. Although the adobe beardtongue is more abundant elsewhere, its presence in this protected site is notable.

Key Environmental Factors

No Data

Climate Description

Arid semi-desert.

Land Use History

No Data

Cultural Features

No Data

SITE DESIGN

Site Map Y - Yes Mapped Date 12/01/1997
Designer Lyon, M.J.

Boundary Justification

The boundary is drawn to include the high quality plant community, which includes the adobe beardtongue.

Primary Area 24.63 Acres 9.97 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B4: Moderate Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

The site supports a small, or fair (C-ranked), occurrence of a globally vulnerable plant, adobe beardtongue (*Penstemon retrorsus*). It also contains a good (B-ranked) occurrence of a globally common (G5/S4) plant community, mesic western slope pinon - juniper woodlands (*Pinus edulis* - *Juniperus* spp. / *Cercocarpus montanus*).

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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> |
| 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> |
|---------------------|--|
| 179190 | Lyon, P. and E. Williams. 1998. Final Report: Natural Heritage Biological Survey of Delta County. Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Fort Collins, CO. |

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date 12/01/1997

Version Author Lyon, M.J.

Disclaimer

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