

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Packers Gap North

Site Code S.USCOHP*9568

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 990 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 374448N
State Colorado Longitude 1033831W

<u>Quad Code</u>	<u>Quad Name</u>
37103-G6	La Junta SW
37103-F6	Packers Gap
37103-G5	La Junta SE
37103-F5	Riley Canyon

County

Otero (CO)

<u>Watershed Code</u>	<u>Watershed Name</u>
11020010	Purgatoire
11020005	Upper Arkansas-Lake Meredith

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	4,600.00 Feet	1,402.00 Meters
Maximum Elevation	4,848.00 Feet	1,478.00 Meters

Site Description

Packers Gap North is characterized by rolling shortgrass prairie with shale or limestone ridges and bluffs. Several stock ponds have been excavated on ephemeral streams that dissect the area. Elevations range from about 4,600 ft near the East Branch of Crooked Arroyo and the North Fork of Jack Canyon to about 4,848 ft at Packers Gap. Shortgrass prairie dominates the lower slopes and flats along the creeks. Several county roads run through the site. The top of ridges and edges of the bluffs where white shales or limestones are exposed at the surface are dominated by sparse cover of Bigelow's sagebrush (*Artemisia bigelovii*) with New Mexico feathergrass (*Hesperostipa neomexicana*) and Indian ricegrass (*Achnatherum hymenoides*). The geology is described as being the Smokey Hill marl and Fort Hayes limestone members of the Niobrara Formation. There is little surface soil development.

Key Environmental Factors

No Data

Climate Description

No Data

Land Use History

No Data

Cultural Features

No Data

SITE DESIGN

Site Map P - Partial Mapped Date 02/03/2010
Designer Panjabi, S.S.

Boundary Justification

The boundary is intended to designate an area which, given the available data regarding the ecological processes that support these elements, is believed necessary. This boundary would protect a large example of the community from direct disturbance. The community is usually confined to the rocky outcrops. Fire and herbivory were probably important ecological influences but other ecological factors and processes necessary for long-term viability of the community are unknown at this time.

Primary Area	19,887.65 Acres	8,048.28 Hectares
---------------------	-----------------	-------------------

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Copyright © 2011. Colorado State University. Colorado Natural Heritage Program. All Rights Reserved.

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Packers Gap North

Site Code S.USCOHP*9568

Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site contains an excellent (A-ranked) occurrence of the globally vulnerable (G3/S3) Arkansas Valley evening primrose (*Oenothera harringtonii*) and an excellent (A-ranked) occurrence of a globally vulnerable (G3/S3) shrubland community, *Artemisia bigelovii* / *Achnatherum hymenoides*.

Other Values Rank No Data

Other Values Comments

No Data

LAND MANAGEMENT ISSUES

Land Use Comments

Most of the site is within the Comanche National Grassland. Currently, livestock graze the area and a small mine has been excavated along the Rourke Road.

Natural Hazard Comments

No Data

Exotics Comments

No Data

Offsite

No Data

Information Needs

Other large outcrops of similar geology exist in the nearby area. These outcrops may be habitat for more extensive examples of this community. USFS or NRCS staff could probably help rank the importance of this site for the community occurrence.

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>
24800	<i>Artemisia bigelovii</i> / <i>Achnatherum hymenoides</i> Shrubland	Plains Escarpment Prairies (Limestone Breaks)	G3	S3	Yes
19476	<i>Oenothera harringtonii</i>	Arkansas Valley evening primrose	G3	S3	Yes

REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
172109	Culver, D., M. A. March, S. Kettler and C. Pague. 1996. Natural Heritage Inventory of Significant Animals and Plants and Classification of Riparian Plant Associations: Timpas Grazing District and Kim Grazing Association. unpub CNHP report for U.S. Forest Service. 215+ p.
198519	Rondeau, R.J., J.R. Sovell, J.E. Stevens, D. Clark and L. Grunau. 2010. Final Report: Southeast Colorado Survey of Critical Biological Resources 2009. Addendum to the 2007 Survey. Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Fort Collins, CO.

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date	06/12/1997
Version Author	Pague, C.A., C.C. Fleming and S.M. Kettler

Disclaimer

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Packers Gap North

Site Code S.USCOHP*9568

These data are a product and property of Colorado State University, Colorado Natural Heritage Program (CNHP). These data are strictly "on loan" and should be considered "works in progress". Data maintained in the Colorado Natural Heritage Program database are an integral part of ongoing research at CSU and reflect the observations of many scientists, institutions and our current state of knowledge. These data are acquired from various sources, with varying levels of accuracy, and are continually being updated and revised. Many areas have never been surveyed and the absence of data in any particular geographic area does not necessarily mean that species or ecological communities of concern are not present. These data should not be regarded as a substitute for on-site surveys required for environmental assessments. Absence of evidence is NOT evidence of absence. Absence of any data does not mean that other resources of special concern do not occur, but rather CNHP files do not currently contain information to document this presence. CNHP is not responsible for whether other, non-CNHP data providers have secured landowner permission for data collected.

These data are provided for non-commercial purposes only. Under no circumstances are data to be distributed in any fashion to outside parties. To ensure accurate application of data, tabular and narrative components must be evaluated in conjunction with spatial components. Failure to do so constitutes a misuse of the data. The Colorado Natural Heritage Program shall have no liability or responsibility to the data users, or any other person or entity with respect to liability, loss, or damage caused or alleged to be caused directly or indirectly by the data, including but not limited to any interruption of service, loss of business, anticipatory profits or indirect, special, or consequential damages resulting from the use of operation of the data. Data users hereby agree to hold CNHP, Colorado State University, and the State of Colorado harmless from any claim, demand, cause of action, loss, damage or expense from or related to data users use of or reliance on the data, regardless of the cause or nature thereof, and even in the event that such cause is attributable to the negligence or misconduct of CNHP.

These data are provided on an as-is basis, as-available basis without warranties of any kind, expressed or implied, INCLUDING (BUT NOT LIMITED TO) WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY, FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE, AND NON-INFRINGEMENT. Although CNHP maintains high standards of data quality control, CNHP, Colorado State University, and the State of Colorado further expressly disclaim any warranty that the data are error-free or current as of the date supplied