

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Plateau Creek

Site Code S.USCOHP*26172

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 2340 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 374138N
State Colorado Longitude 1082722W

Quad Code Quad Name
37108-F4 Willow Spring

County
Dolores (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name
14030002 Upper Dolores

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	7,400.00 Feet	2,255.52 Meters
Maximum Elevation	7,900.00 Feet	2,407.92 Meters

Site Description

The site includes sparsely vegetated areas of light gray Mancos Shale, and sagebrush flats with Gambel oak (*Quercus gambelii*) woodland on upper slopes. The shale areas support a number of unusual plant species, including the recently described cushion bladderpod (*Physaria pulvinata*) and Lone Mesa snakeweed (*Gutierrezia elegans*). another species yet to be described (an un-named *Packera*) is known from this site. Other species that occur on the shale are mat penstemon (*Penstemon caespitosus*), *Tetraneuris* sp., common Townsend daisy (*Townsendia leptotes*), buckwheat (*Eriogonum lonchophyllum*), and Missouri milkvetch (*Astragalus missouriensis* ssp. *amphibolus*). Black sagebrush (*Artemisia nova*) and mountain big sagebrush (*A. tridentata* ssp. *vaseyana*) occur together in the sagebrush areas.

Key Environmental Factors

No Data

Climate Description

No Data

Land Use History

The area has primarily been used for cattle grazing and big game hunting. Lone Mesa State Park has not yet been opened to the public.

Cultural Features

No Data

SITE DESIGN

Site Map Y - Yes Mapped Date 06/06/2009
Designer Lyon, M.J.

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes all known locations of cushion bladderpod (*Physaria pulvinata*) and Lone Mesa snakeweed (*Gutierrezia elegans*), as well as a population of *Physaria cnema*. An un-named *Packera* species is included within the *Physaria pulvinata* occurrences. Some additional habitat that appears suitable for these species, but is not known to be occupied, is included. With additional surveys, this boundary may be adjusted in the future.

Primary Area 11,983.94 Acres 4,849.75 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B1: Outstanding Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

The site supports excellent (A-ranked) and good (B-ranked) occurrences of two plants that are globally

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critically imperiled (G1/S1), cushion bladderpod (*Physaria pulvinata*) and Lone Mesa snakeweed (*Gutierrezia elegans*). There is also a good (B-ranked) occurrence of the state imperiled (G5/S1) King's clover (*Trifolium kingii*).

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

Although not competing directly with the rare plants, there are several exotics, including musk thistle (*Carduus nutans*), mountain tarweed (*Madia glomerata*) and a number of pasture grasses.

Offsite

No Data

Information Needs

Further surveys are warranted for *Gutierrezia elegans* and *Physaria pulvinata*. Confirmation of taxonomic status and publication of *Physaria cnema* and the *Packera* species (if they are determined to be good species) is needed.

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>
40393	<i>Physaria pulvinata</i>	cushion bladderpod	G1	S1	Yes
40393	<i>Physaria pulvinata</i>	cushion bladderpod	G1	S1	No
40393	<i>Physaria pulvinata</i>	cushion bladderpod	G1	S1	Yes
44159	<i>Gutierrezia elegans</i>	Lone Mesa snakeweed	G1	S1	Yes
23550	<i>Trifolium kingii</i>	King's clover	G5	S1	No

REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
198365	Lyon, M.J. 2009. Final Report: Rare Plant Survey of Lone Mesa State Park. Dolores County, Colorado. Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Fort Collins, CO.
194256	Lyon, P. and J. Hanson. 2006. Final Report: 2005 Rare Plant Survey of San Juan Public Lands, Colorado. Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Fort Collins, CO.

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

Original site design by Lyon, M.J. 2005-10-16.

VERSION

Version Date 06/06/2009

Version Author Lyon, M.J.

Disclaimer

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