

# Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Ra Jadero Canyons

Site Code S.USCOHP\*075

## IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 1336 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 371318N  
State Colorado Longitude 1061456W

<u>Quad Code</u>	<u>Quad Name</u>
37106-B2	Vicente Canyon
37106-B3	La Jara Canyon

### County

Conejos (CO)

<u>Watershed Code</u>	<u>Watershed Name</u>
13010002	Alamosa-Trinchera

## SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	8,300.00 Feet	2,530.00 Meters
Maximum Elevation	9,500.00 Feet	2,896.00 Meters

### Site Description

The site includes several shallow canyons around a large mesa with open grasslands and patches of forest. Ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*), Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), aspen (*Populus tremuloides*), pinyon pine (*Pinus edulis*), and juniper (*Juniperus monosperma*) are the common trees. Grasslands are often dominated by Arizona fescue (*Festuca arizonica*) but sometimes dominated by weedy native species such as Richardson hymenoxys (*Hymenoxys richardsonii*) or hairy golden aster (*Heterotheca villosa*). A major Forest Service access road runs through the site, as do numerous two-track roads.

### 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 01/10/2000  
Designer Reid, M. and S.M. Kettler

### Boundary Justification

The boundary encompasses the Ripley milkvetch locations and enough adjacent habitat to include open grasslands or savanna-like vegetation and the numerous small drainages downstream from known Ripley milkvetch locations. This boundary is intended to allow some seed dispersal into currently unoccupied but apparently suitable habitat and provide habitat for plant pollinators. Seed dispersal mechanisms considered important for this species are small mammals (presumably kangaroo rats) caching the seed pods and precipitation events washing the seeds downhill (Julie Burt - pers. comm.). A suspected pollinator of this plant is a common bee that could nectar on species other than Ripley milkvetch in the same habitat.

Primary Area 5,216.12 Acres 2,110.90 Hectares

## SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

### Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site contains a good (B-ranked) occurrence of a globally vulnerable (G3/S2) plant species, Ripley

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milkvetch (*Astragalus ripleyi*).

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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>
18485	<i>Astragalus ripleyi</i>	Ripley milkvetch	G3	S2	Yes

### REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
165924	Kettler, S., J. Rocchio, R. Schorr, J. Burt. 2000. Biological Inventory of Rio Grande and Conejos Counties, Colorado. Unpublished report prepared for The Nature Conservancy. 234 pp.

### ADDITIONAL TOPICS

## Additional Topics

No Data

### VERSION

<b>Version Date</b>	01/10/2000
<b>Version Author</b>	Reid, M. and S.M. Kettler

### Disclaimer

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