

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Rincon Canyon

Site Code S.USCOHP*25385

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 2212 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 371654N
State Colorado Longitude 1085635W

Quad Code Quad Name
37108-C8 Bowdish Canyon

County
Montezuma (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name
14080202 Mcelmo

SITE DESCRIPTION

| | | |
|-------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Minimum Elevation | 5,320.00 Feet | 1,621.54 Meters |
| Maximum Elevation | 5,800.00 Feet | 1,767.84 Meters |

Site Description

Rincon Canyon, a tributary of McElmo Creek, contains headwaters of the San Juan River. An intermittent creek runs northwest, forming a shallow canyon through the Dakota and Morrison formations. The site is situated within a salt desert shrub community and includes patches of sparse juniper, sagebrush and grass dominated areas. At the lower, western end of the canyon, the stream occupies an eroded gully in greasewood flats that are in very poor condition. The condition of the canyon improves upstream. Rocky benches on an east-facing slope in the canyon support a small population of Jones blue star (*Amsonia jonesii*). The plants were documented here by BLM in 2001, and have been re-visited in 2004 and 2005. Associated species include spiny horsebrush (*Forsellesia meionandra*) and galleta (*Pleuraphis jamesii*). Cryptobiotic crust covered about 20 to 30 percent of the unvegetated areas. Grassy slopes with galleta support a population of weak-stemmed mariposa lily (*Calochortus flexuosus*), while patches of Utah penstemon (*Penstemon utahensis*) were found along the canyon bottom in rocky areas.

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 12/08/2004
Designer Lyon, M.J.

Boundary Justification

The boundary was drawn to encompass the Jones blue star (*Amsonia jonesii*) occurrence, along with a section of the canyon both upstream and downstream that includes unsurveyed areas expected to contain suitable habitat for movement or expansion of the Jones blue star (*Amsonia jonesii*) population.

Primary Area 644.81 Acres 260.95 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B4: Moderate Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

The Rincon Canyon site supports a good (B-ranked) occurrence of the state rare (G4/S1) Jones blue star

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Rincon Canyon

Site Code S.USCOHP*25385

(*Amsonia jonesii*), a fair (C-ranked) occurrence of the state rare (G4/S2) Utah penstemon (*Penstemon utahensis*), a fair (C-ranked) occurrence of the state rare (G4/S2) weak-stemmed mariposa lily (*Calochortus flexuosus*), and a good (B-ranked) occurrence of an unusual plant community, Utah juniper / Spiny greasewood (*Juniperus osteosperma* / *Forsellesia meionandra*), that has not yet been assigned a rarity rank (GU/SU).

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> |
| 18648 | <i>Amsonia jonesii</i> | Jones blue star | G4 | S1 | Yes |
| 24553 | <i>Juniperus osteosperma</i> / <i>Forsellesia meionandra</i> Woodland | Utah Juniper/Utah Greasewood | GU | SU | No |
| 19001 | <i>Penstemon utahensis</i> | Utah penstemon | G4 | S2 | No |
| 22171 | <i>Calochortus flexuosus</i> | weak-stemmed mariposa lily | G4 | S2 | No |

REFERENCES

| <u>Reference ID</u> | <u>Full Citation</u> |
|---------------------|---|
| 192772 | Lyon, M.J. 2005. Final Report: Survey of Rare Plants. San Juan Public Lands in Dolores and Montezuma counties, Colorado. Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Fort Collins, CO. |

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date 11/10/2005

Version Author Lyon, M.J.

Disclaimer

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Rincon Canyon

Site Code S.USCOHP*25385

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