

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Ritchie Gulch Upland

Site Code S.USCOHP*178

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 1530 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>
2466	S.USCOHP*27035	Arkansas Valley Barrens

LOCATORS

Nation United States Latitude 381446N
State Colorado Longitude 1050159W

Quad Code Quad Name

38105-C1 Florence SE
38105-B1 Wetmore

County

Pueblo (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name

11020002 Upper Arkansas

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	5,500.00 Feet	1,676.00 Meters
Maximum Elevation	5,830.00 Feet	1,777.00 Meters

Site Description

The Ritchie Gulch Upland site is characterized by open pinyon-juniper woodlands and sparsely vegetated shale outcrops. State Route 96 crosses through the site. The woodlands include scattered juniper (*Juniperus monosperma*), pinon pine (*Pinus edulis*), and mountain mahogany (*Cercocarpus montanus*). Other species noted include rabbitbrush (*Chrysothamnus* sp.), yucca (*Yucca glauca*), blazing star (*Nutallia decapetala*), Indian ricegrass (*Oryzopsis hymenoides*), four wing saltbush (*Atriplex canescens*), wild buckwheat (*Eriogonum fendlerianum*), gumweed (*Grindelia* sp.), bladderpod (*Lesquerella ovalifolia*), skunkbush (*Rhus trilobata*), Gambel's oak (*Quercus gambelii*), beardtongue (*Penstemon* sp.), and Cat's eye (*Oreocarya* sp.). Two rare plant species, Rocky Mountain bladderpod (*Lesquerella calcicola*) and round-leaf four-o'clock (*Oxybaphus rotundifolius*), occupy the toe of a hill cut by historic construction of Route 96, on both sides of the road.

Key Environmental Factors

No Data

Climate Description

No Data

Land Use History

No Data

Cultural Features

No Data

SITE DESIGN

Site Map Y - Yes Mapped Date 01/24/2003
Designer Spackman, S.C.

Boundary Justification

The boundary encompasses the element occurrences, plus unsurveyed, apparently suitable habitat in the vicinity of the occurrences. In general, site boundaries are drawn to represent our best estimate of the primary area needed for the survival of the occurrences. This area is sufficiently large to protect intact (or at least allow simulation of) most of the natural ecological processes necessary for survival of the species, including reproductive ecology and hydrology. The boundaries also include the mosaic of local community types on which the species may rely.

Primary Area 651.51 Acres 263.66 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B2: Very High Biodiversity Significance

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Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site contains a good (B-ranked) example of the globally imperiled (G2) round-leaf four-o'clock (*Oxybaphus rotundifolius*), and an unranked (E-ranked) occurrence of a globally vulnerable (G3) plant, Rocky Mountain bladderpod (*Lesquerella calcicola*).

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>
21031	<i>Lesquerella calcicola</i>	Rocky Mountain bladderpod	G3	S3	No
23147	<i>Oxybaphus rotundifolius</i>	round-leaf four-o'clock	G2	S2	Yes

REFERENCES

Reference ID Full Citation

- No Data

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date 01/24/2003

Version Author Spackman, S.C.

Disclaimer

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