

# Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Rito Hondo Creek

Site Code S.USCOHP\*067

## IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 278 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 370205N  
State Colorado Longitude 1061410W

### Quad Code Quad Name

37106-A2 Fox Creek

### County

Conejos (CO)

### Watershed Code Watershed Name

13010005 Conejos

## SITE DESCRIPTION

|                          |          |             |          |               |
|--------------------------|----------|-------------|----------|---------------|
| <b>Minimum Elevation</b> | 8,380.00 | <b>Feet</b> | 2,554.00 | <b>Meters</b> |
| <b>Maximum Elevation</b> | 9,350.00 | <b>Feet</b> | 2,850.00 | <b>Meters</b> |

### Site Description

The site is predominantly characterized by open grasslands with scattered woodlands, and forests with grassland openings. Ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*), Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), pinyon pine (*Pinus edulis*), juniper (*Juniperus* spp.), and aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) mainly occur at the higher parts of the site or along rock outcrops or drainages that dissect the hills. Some sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*) also occurs on the site. The grasslands are somewhat degraded and actively eroding. Weedy forbs such as Richardson hymenoxys (*Hymenoxys richardsonii*) and hairy golden-aster (*Heterotheca villosa*) are common and native grasses such as Arizona fescue (*Festuca arizonica*) and mountain muhly (*Muhlenbergia montana*) are uncommon.

### 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 12/27/1999

Designer Pague, C.A. and S.M. Kettler

### Boundary Justification

The boundary also 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.

|                     |          |              |        |                 |
|---------------------|----------|--------------|--------|-----------------|
| <b>Primary Area</b> | 2,336.73 | <b>Acres</b> | 945.65 | <b>Hectares</b> |
|---------------------|----------|--------------|--------|-----------------|

## SITE SIGNIFICANCE

**Biodiversity Significance Rank** B3: High Biodiversity Significance

### Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site contains two good occurrences of a plant species which is vulnerable on a global scale.

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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

Need to verify site boundaries with on-site investigation. Determine effects of natural and unnatural grazing on this population.

### 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           | No               |
| 18485           | <i>Astragalus ripleyi</i>    | Ripley milkvetch         | G3            | S2           | No               |
| 18485           | <i>Astragalus ripleyi</i>    | Ripley milkvetch         | G3            | S2           | No               |
| 18485           | <i>Astragalus ripleyi</i>    | Ripley milkvetch         | G3            | S2           | Yes              |
| 18485           | <i>Astragalus ripleyi</i>    | Ripley milkvetch         | G3            | S2           | Yes              |
| 18485           | <i>Astragalus ripleyi</i>    | Ripley milkvetch         | G3            | S2           | No               |

### 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>   | 12/27/1999                   |
| <b>Version Author</b> | Pague, C.A. and S.M. Kettler |

### Disclaimer

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