

# Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Rock Creek Hill

Site Code S.USCOHP\*23972

## IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 87 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 380827N  
State Colorado Longitude 1044912W

Quad Code Quad Name  
38104-B7 Beulah NE

County  
Pueblo (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name  
11020002 Upper Arkansas

## SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	5,400.00 Feet	1,646.00 Meters
Maximum Elevation	5,626.00 Feet	1,715.00 Meters

### Site Description

This small site includes the west-facing slopes of the Rock Creek drainage, on both sides of Highway 78. The site is characterized by light-colored outcrops of shale and sandstone, and open pinyon - juniper woodlands (*Pinus edulis* and *Juniperus monosperma*). Some other common plant species noted include mountain mahogany (*Cercocarpus montanus*), skunkbush (*Rhus trilobata*), Indian ricegrass (*Oryzopsis hymenoides*), blue grama (*Bouteloua gracilis*), sand dropseed (*Sporobolus cryptandrus*), yucca (*Yucca glauca*), prickly pear cactus (*Opuntia* spp.) and beardtongue (*Penstemon* sp.). The portion of the site that is north of Highway 78 is managed as an environmental outreach center for local citizens.

### 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 01/27/2003  
Designer Spackman, S.C.

### Boundary Justification

Boundary encompasses the element occurrence and the mosaic of community types found in the immediate vicinity of the occurrence. Boundary includes some unsurveyed, potentially suitable habitat for the globally rare plant species.

Primary Area 203.44 Acres 82.33 Hectares

## SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B4: Moderate Biodiversity Significance

### Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site supports an unranked occurrence of a globally vulnerable (G3/S3) plant species the Rocky Mountain bladderpod (*Lesquerella calcicola*).

Other Values Rank No Data

### Other Values Comments

No Data

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## LAND MANAGEMENT ISSUES

### Land Use Comments

No Data

### Natural Hazard Comments

Further inventory for Rocky Mountain bladderpod as well as other shale barren endemic plants is warranted, especially during a non-drought year. The habitat appeared to have potential for several rare plant species such as round-leaf four-o'clock (*Oxybaphus rotundifolius*) and Colorado gumweed (*Grindelia inornata*). Russian thistle (*Salsola australis*) and field bindweed (*Convolvulus arvensis*) are two invasive weeds that were noted along Rock Creek. These and other weeds could become problematic, although the shale outcrops do not tend to support large weed populations

### 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	Yes

## REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
-	No Data

## ADDITIONAL TOPICS

### Additional Topics

No Data

## VERSION

<b>Version Date</b>	01/27/2003
<b>Version Author</b>	Spackman, S.C.

## Disclaimer

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