

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Roubideau Creek

Site Code S.USCOHP8*3335

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 171 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 383146N
 State Colorado Longitude 1081204W

Quad Code Quad Name

38108-D2	Davis Point
38108-F2	Roubideau
38108-E2	Camel Back
38108-E3	Cottonwood Basin
38108-C2	Antone Spring
38108-D3	Moore Mesa
38108-C3	Ute

County

Delta (CO)
 Montrose (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name

14020006	Uncompahange
14030003	San Miguel
14020005	Lower Gunnison

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	6,160.00	Feet	1,878.00	Meters
Maximum Elevation	7,800.00	Feet	2,377.00	Meters

Site Description

Roubideau Creek drains the Uncompahgre Plateau. At its upper elevations, it is a deep and wide canyon with broken stair-step sandstone cliffs and steep slopes on both sides. These upslopes are scattered with pinon pine and juniper trees. Tributaries are very steep and originate on the open mesas to the west. The valley floor is dominated by a mosaic of *Populus angustifolia* trees with a mixed shrub understory of *Rhus trilobata*, *Betula occidentalis*, *Salix ligulifolia*, *Acer glabrum* and *Cornus sericea*. *Quercus gambelli* forms thick stands on the adjacent mesa flats to the west (Traver Mesa, West Basin, Pine Mesa, Davis Mesa, Goddard Bench, and Murray Park). The river itself is sinuous and the floodplain consists of many point bars, low terraces and higher benches. Wetter and more shaded areas are dominated by *Betula* and *Cornus*, higher terraces have older cottonwood stands. Roubideau Creek is a low gradient, meandering stream by the time it reaches Delta County. The lower half of the Delta County part of the creek flows through the Escalante State Wildlife Area, where it forms extensive wetlands which provide excellent breeding habitat for waterfowl. Much of the rest of the Delta County area is privately owned along the valley bottom, with some BLM land along the southern end. Riparian vegetation along the creek consists of Fremont cottonwood with several shrubs (sandbar willow, skunkbush, greasewood, spreading rabbitbrush), and grasses (saltgrass, Canada wildrye, giant reed, alkali sacaton and sand dropseed). Introduced species include tamarisk (*Tamarix ramosissima*), white top (*Cardaria* sp.) and reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*). Dry benches above the river channel have desert shrub vegetation, and are home to some small, scattered populations of the Colorado hookless cactus. Both the cactus and the long-flowered cat's-eye were found on the State Correctional Center. Other native plants associated with the cactus were shadscale, galleta, broom snakeweed, paper flower, prickly pear cactus, sand aster, scorpionweed, and winterfat. There were also several introduced weeds, including Russian knapweed and cheatgrass. The northern leopard frog was seen near the mouth of the creek.

Key Environmental Factors

Unaltered hydrologic regime.

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Climate Description

Dry, southwestern Colorado Plateau, with cold dry winters and hot dry summers.

Land Use History

No Data

Cultural Features

No Data

SITE DESIGN

Site Map P - Partial

Mapped Date 07/29/1999

Designer Lyon, M.J.

Boundary Justification

The boundary encompasses the canyon area and tributaries to Plateau Divide. This should prevent direct disturbance such as physical disturbance, exotic species invasion, and alteration of the local hydrological processes. In Delta County, the boundary is drawn to include the creek, valley bottom, and benches with the Colorado hookless cactus. The boundary was extended in 1998 to include the riparian community on Little Monitor Creek and the *Lesquerella vicina* and *Juniperus osteosperma* occurrences at Twenty-five Mesa.

Primary Area 24,680.99 Acres 9,988.08 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B2: Very High Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site contains a good (B-ranked) occurrence of a plant species, good-neighbor bladderpod (*Lesquerella vicina*) which is imperiled on a global scale (G2/S2). It also contains fair (C-ranked) occurrences of the globally imperiled (G2G3/S2S3) Colorado hookless cactus (*Sclerocactus glaucus*), good (B-ranked) occurrences of the Grand Junction milkvetch (*Astragalus linifolius*) and a fair (C-ranked) occurrence of the globally vulnerable (G3/S3) long-flower cat's-eye (*Oreocarya longiflora*). In addition, there are excellent and good occurrences of plant communities which are imperiled to apparently secure on a global scale.

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

Introduced species include tamarisk (*Tamarix ramosissima*), white top (*Cardaria* sp.), reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*) and Russian knapweed (*Centaurea repens*).

Offsite

Hydrological processes originating outside the planning boundary, including water quality, quantity, and timing must be managed to maintain site viability.

Information Needs

No Data

ASSOCIATED ELEMENTS OF BIODIVERSITY

Element State ID	State Scientific Name	State Common Name	Global Rank	State Rank	Driving Site Rank
16984	<i>Sclerocactus glaucus</i>	Colorado hookless cactus	G2G3	S2S3	No
24867	<i>Picea pungens</i> / <i>Cornus sericea</i> Woodland	Montane Riparian Forest	G4	S2	No
24496	<i>Populus angustifolia</i> / <i>Salix ligulifolia</i> - <i>Shepherdia argentea</i> Woodland	Narrowleaf Cottonwood Riparian Forests	G3	S3	No
24989	<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i> / <i>Cornus sericea</i> Woodland	Lower Montane Riparian Forests	G4	S2	No
20453	<i>Astragalus linifolius</i>	Grand Junction milkvetch	G3Q	S3	No
24872	<i>Salix exigua</i> / Mesic Graminoids Shrubland	Coyote Willow/Mesic Graminoid	G5	S5	No

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24860	<i>Populus angustifolia</i> / <i>Cornus sericea</i> Woodland	Cottonwood Riparian Forest	G4	S3	No
24686	<i>Betula occidentalis</i> / <i>Maianthemum stellatum</i> Shrubland	Foothills Riparian Shrubland	G4?	S2	No
20453	<i>Astragalus linifolius</i>	Grand Junction milkvetch	G3Q	S3	No
16984	<i>Sclerocactus glaucus</i>	Colorado hookless cactus	G2G3	S2S3	No
24600	<i>Populus deltoides</i> ssp. <i>wislizeni</i> / <i>Rhus trilobata</i> Woodland	Fremont's Cottonwood Riparian Forests	G3	S3	No
20453	<i>Astragalus linifolius</i>	Grand Junction milkvetch	G3Q	S3	No
20453	<i>Astragalus linifolius</i>	Grand Junction milkvetch	G3Q	S3	No
24867	<i>Picea pungens</i> / <i>Cornus sericea</i> Woodland	Montane Riparian Forest	G4	S2	No
24362	<i>Oreocarya longiflora</i>	long-flower cat's-eye	G3	S3	No
24769	<i>Juniperus osteosperma</i> / <i>Artemisia nova</i> / Rock Woodland	Utah Juniper/Black Sagebrush/Rock Woodlands	G5	SU	No
24619	<i>Populus angustifolia</i> / <i>Rhus trilobata</i> Woodland	Narrowleaf Cottonwood/Skunkbrush	G3	S3	No
24619	<i>Populus angustifolia</i> / <i>Rhus trilobata</i> Woodland	Narrowleaf Cottonwood/Skunkbrush	G3	S3	No
20366	<i>Lesquerella vicina</i>	good-neighbor bladderpod	G2	S2	Yes

REFERENCES

Reference ID	Full Citation
-	No Data

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date	06/30/2003
Version Author	Bell, J.B.

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