

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Rough Canyon

Site Code S.USCOHP*1315

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 1382 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 385828N
State Colorado Longitude 1083524W

Quad Code Quad Name

38108-H5 Island Mesa
38108-H6 Glade Park

County

Mesa (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name

14020005 Lower Gunnison
14010005 Colorado headwaters-Plateau

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation 5,200.00 Feet 1,585.00 Meters
Maximum Elevation 8,440.00 Feet 2,573.00 Meters

Site Description

Rough Canyon comprises one of several parallel drainages on the Uncompahgre Plateau, leading east to the Gunnison River. The canyon cuts across the flank of a large faulted monocline, and has been recognized by the Colorado Natural Areas Program for its structurally complex and informative geology. Upper elevations of the site are in the Morrison formation, which is the preferred substrate of the Grand Junction milkvetch (*Astragalus linifolius*). The canyon rim is Entrada slickrock, and is the route of a popular bicycle trail. The red rock is dotted with small pockets of soil supporting Utah juniper (*Juniperus osteosperma*), pinyon pine (*Pinus edulis*), blackbrush (*Coleogyne ramosissima*), and yucca (*Yucca harrimaniae*). Downstream in the steep sided canyon, a series of deep pools are home to the canyon tree frog (*Hyla arenicolor*). Soils Description: Soils along drainages are derived from alluvium. Restoration Potential: Most of the site is functioning as expected.

Key Environmental Factors

No Data

Climate Description

Arid semi-desert.

Land Use History

No Data

Cultural Features

No Data

SITE DESIGN

Site Map P - Partial Mapped Date 12/01/1996
Designer Lyon, M.J.

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the present BLM Area of Critical and Environmental Concern, the state designated Natural Area, and the element occurrences. The site boundaries also incorporate upstream drainages which are critical to maintaining natural hydrological processes that provide breeding spots for the canyon tree frog.

Primary Area 3,995.05 Acres 1,616.75 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site supports a population of the Grand Junction milkvetch (*Astragalus linifolius*), which is vulnerable

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throughout its range (G3) and whose globally distribution is confined to the eastern base of the Uncompahgre Plateau in Mesa, Montrose and Delta counties. The long-flower cat's eye (*Cryptantha longiflora*), vulnerable throughout its range (G3), is also found here. This plant endemic to region and grows on sandy or clay soils in the desert shrub zone. The state imperiled (S2) canyon tree frog also occurs here. The canyon tree frog inhabits rocky canyons along intermittent or permanent streams. This desert frog reaches its northern limits in Southern Colorado. Although primarily terrestrial, it breeds in canyon bottom pools surrounded by rock. It is usually found near permanent pools or cottonwoods in the pinyon-juniper zone.

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 Rank</u>	<u>State Rank</u>	<u>Driving Site Rank</u>
<u>State ID</u>	<u>State Scientific Name</u>	<u>State Common Name</u>			
24362	<i>Oreocarya longiflora</i>	long-flower cat's-eye	G3	S3	No
20453	<i>Astragalus linifolius</i>	Grand Junction milkvetch	G3Q	S3	Yes
24946	<i>Pinus edulis</i> - <i>Juniperus osteosperma</i> / <i>Coleogyne ramosissima</i> Woodland	West Slope Pinon Woodland	G3	S2	No
19160	<i>Hyla arenicolor</i>	Canyon Treefrog	G5	S2	No

REFERENCES

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

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date	12/01/1996
Version Author	Lyon, M.J.

Disclaimer

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