

# Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Shavetail Park

Site Code S.USCOHP\*27018

## IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 2462 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 400202N  
State Colorado Longitude 1085635W

<u>Quad Code</u>	<u>Quad Name</u>
40109-A1	Walsh Knolls
39108-H8	Banta Ridge
40108-A8	Banty Point

### County

Rio Blanco (CO)

<u>Watershed Code</u>	<u>Watershed Name</u>
14050007	Lower White

## SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	5,021.00 Feet	1,530.40 Meters
Maximum Elevation	5,920.00 Feet	1,804.42 Meters

### Site Description

Located in Rio Blanco County, south of the White River and east of Rangely, the Shavetail Park site includes low hills with several washes running north to the White River, and a large level area called Shavetail Park. There are two named drainages, Shavetail Wash and Cottonwood Creek, and seven un-named washes. Most of the site is between 5,200 and 5,500 feet. Banty Point, in the western part of the site, reaches an elevation of 5,920 feet. Ownership is primarily BLM, with some private lands in the north and west. The geology of the SW 2/3 of the site is composed of the Parachute member of the Green River Formation (oil shale, marlstone and siltstone of the Piceance Basin) and the lower part (shale, sandstones and marlstone, and limestone in Anvil Points, Garden Gulch, and Douglas Creek Members). The northeast 1/3 is composed of the upper part of the Mesa Verde Formation (sandstones, shale and coal beds above Segoe sandstone). Vegetation consists of sagebrush shrublands with some pinon - juniper woodlands on the upper slopes and shadscale in the lower areas. Major shrub species are Wyoming sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata* ssp. *wyomingensis*), black sagebrush (*Artemisia nova*), pygmy sagebrush (*Seriphidium pygmaeum*), spiny greasebrush (*Forsellesia meionandra*), shadscale (*Atriplex confertifolia*) and greasewood (*Sarcobatus vermiculatus*). Grasses include bluebunch wheatgrass (*Pseudoroegneria spicata*), Indian ricegrass (*Achnatherum hymenoides*), galleta (*Pleuraphis jamesii*), squirreltail (*Elymus elymoides*), and Sandberg bluegrass (*Poa secunda*). Common forbs are basin-daisy (*Platyschukhria integrifolia*), snakeweed (*Gutierrezia sarothrae*), tansy mustard (*Descurainia pinnata*), Hood's phlox (*Phlox hoodii*), scarlet globemallow (*Sphaeralcea coccinea*), twin bladderpod (*Physaria acutifolia*), sego lily (*Calochortus nuttallii*), and western tansy-aster (*Macheranthera grindelioides*). Rare plants include Rollins' cat's-eye (*Oreocarya rollinsii*), ephedra buckwheat (*Eriogonum ephedroides*), pygmy sagebrush and ligulate feverfew (*Bolophyta ligulata*). Two non-native species of concern, cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*) and purple mustard (*Corispora tenella*), are abundant in some areas. Other non-native species observed were desert alyssum (*Alyssum desertorum*) and curvseed butterwort (*Ranunculus testiculatus*).

### Key Environmental Factors

Dry, sandy soils

### Climate Description

In the County, summers are warm or hot in most valleys but are much cooler in the mountains. Winters are cold in the mountains. Summer thunderstorms are prevalent; of the total precipitation, 55% usually falls between April and September. Average seasonal snowfall is 74.4 inches, average day time temperature is 45 degrees and average precipitation is 16.5 inches for Meeker between 1948 -2007 (Western Regional Climate Center 2008).

# Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Shavetail Park

Site Code S.USCOHP\*27018

## Land Use History

Grazing.

## Cultural Features

No Data

### SITE DESIGN

Site Map Y - Yes

Mapped Date 12/07/2007

Designer Lyon, M.J. and J. Huggins

## Boundary Justification

The site is bounded on the north by the White River and County Road 2, and on the west by Cottonwood Creek and BLM road 1070. It encompasses six rare plant occurrences, and the sagebrush shrublands and pinon - juniper woodlands that provide habitat for four rare plant species.

Primary Area 11,371.39 Acres 4,601.86 Hectares

### SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

## Biodiversity Significance Comments

The site rank is based on a good (B-ranked) occurrence of ephedra buckwheat (*Eriogonum ephedroides*), a globally vulnerable (G3) plant that is rare (S1) in Colorado. It also includes historical occurrences of Rollin's cat's-eye (*Oreocarya rollinsii*), and one historical occurrence of ligulate feverfew (*Bolophyta ligulata*), both globally vulnerable (G3) species that are rare (S2) in Colorado. The state rare (G4/S1) pygmy sagebrush (*Seriphidium pygmaeum*) has also been documented in good (B-ranked) condition.

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

Two non-native species of concern, cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*) and purple mustard (*Corispora tenella*), are abundant in some areas. Other non-native species observed were desert alyssum (*Alyssum desertorum*) and curvseed butterwort (*Ranunculus testiculatus*).

## Offsite

No Data

## Information Needs

Field survey needed to verify quality of rare plant populations.

### ASSOCIATED ELEMENTS OF BIODIVERSITY

Element State ID	State Scientific Name	State Common Name	Global Rank	State Rank	Driving Site Rank
18627	<i>Oreocarya rollinsii</i>	Rollins' cat's-eye	G3	S2	No
23998	<i>Bolophyta ligulata</i>	ligulate feverfew	G3	S2	No
18627	<i>Oreocarya rollinsii</i>	Rollins' cat's-eye	G3	S2	No
18627	<i>Oreocarya rollinsii</i>	Rollins' cat's-eye	G3	S2	No
22839	<i>Eriogonum ephedroides</i>	ephedra buckwheat	G3	S1	Yes
20827	<i>Seriphidium pygmaeum</i>	pygmy sagebrush	G4	S1	No

### REFERENCES

# Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Shavetail Park

Site Code S.USCOHP\*27018

## Reference ID

## Full Citation

195049	BLM, White River Field Office. 2007. Personal communication to Peggy Lyon and Denise Culver of CNHP.
195026	Culver, D., J. Huggins and P. Lyon. 2008. Final Report: Significant Biological Resources in Rio Blanco County, CO. Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Fort Collins, CO.
195034	WRCC. 2008. Western Regional Climate Center. Division of Atmospheric Sciences, Desert Research Institute. Reno, Nevada. < <a href="http://www.wrcc.dri.edu">http://www.wrcc.dri.edu</a> >.

## ADDITIONAL TOPICS

### Additional Topics

No Data

## VERSION

Version Date 12/07/2007

Version Author Lyon, M.J. and J. Huggins

## Disclaimer

These data are a product and property of Colorado State University, Colorado Natural Heritage Program (CNHP). These data are strictly "on loan" and should be considered "works in progress". Data maintained in the Colorado Natural Heritage Program database are an integral part of ongoing research at CSU and reflect the observations of many scientists, institutions and our current state of knowledge. These data are acquired from various sources, with varying levels of accuracy, and are continually being updated and revised. Many areas have never been surveyed and the absence of data in any particular geographic area does not necessarily mean that species or ecological communities of concern are not present. These data should not be regarded as a substitute for on-site surveys required for environmental assessments. Absence of evidence is NOT evidence of absence. Absence of any data does not mean that other resources of special concern do not occur, but rather CNHP files do not currently contain information to document this presence. CNHP is not responsible for whether other, non-CNHP data providers have secured landowner permission for data collected.

**These data are provided for non-commercial purposes only.** Under no circumstances are data to be distributed in any fashion to outside parties. To ensure accurate application of data, tabular and narrative components must be evaluated in conjunction with spatial components. Failure to do so constitutes a misuse of the data. The Colorado Natural Heritage Program shall have no liability or responsibility to the data users, or any other person or entity with respect to liability, loss, or damage caused or alleged to be caused directly or indirectly by the data, including but not limited to any interruption of service, loss of business, anticipatory profits or indirect, special, or consequential damages resulting from the use of operation of the data. Data users hereby agree to hold CNHP, Colorado State University, and the State of Colorado harmless from any claim, demand, cause of action, loss, damage or expense from or related to data users use of or reliance on the data, regardless of the cause or nature thereof, and even in the event that such cause is attributable to the negligence or misconduct of CNHP.

These data are provided on an as-is basis, as-available basis without warranties of any kind, expressed or implied, INCLUDING (BUT NOT LIMITED TO) WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY, FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE, AND NON-INFRINGEMENT. Although CNHP maintains high standards of data quality control, CNHP, Colorado State University, and the State of Colorado further expressly disclaim any warranty that the data are error-free or current as of the date supplied