

# Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Slick Rock Hill

Site Code S.USCOHP\*21252

## IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 738 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 380054N  
State Colorado Longitude 1085458W

<u>Quad Code</u>	<u>Quad Name</u>
38108-A8	Horse Range Mesa
37108-H8	Egnar

### County

San Miguel (CO)

<u>Watershed Code</u>	<u>Watershed Name</u>
14030002	Upper Dolores

## SITE DESCRIPTION

<b>Minimum Elevation</b>	5,600.00	<b>Feet</b>	1,707.00	<b>Meters</b>
<b>Maximum Elevation</b>	7,200.00	<b>Feet</b>	2,195.00	<b>Meters</b>

### Site Description

This site includes within its boundary the canyons west of the Dolores River near Slick Rock, Colorado. The geologic features of this site include Jurassic Morrison (stream sands, shale, gravel, and ash), Jurassic Summerville (marine sequence); and Jurassic Entrada (dune sand, weak calcareous cement). Soils vary from loamy, coarse-loamy, to mixed, clayey, mesic shallow soils. The dominant vegetation in the site is pinyon-juniper woodland. There are excellent quality examples of a common plant association typical of western San Miguel County, consisting of pinyon pine (25% cover), Utah juniper (30%) and mountain mahogany (15%). The community occurs on red sandy soils of the Morrison Formation, with well-developed soil crusts. Understory species include Mormon tea, prickly-pear cactus, hairy golden aster, bahia, little-leaved brickelbush, mountain big sagebrush, black sagebrush, snakeweed, three-awn, bitterbrush, cliff rose, needle-and-thread grass, skunkbrush, rabbitbrush, galleta, many lobed groundsel, and woolly milkvetch. Abajo penstemon was found to be common on bare sandy soils within the pinyon-juniper community, from the top of the hill to about halfway down, along Highway 80. Near the bottom of the hill, along a small dirt road east of the highway at milepost 20, were two other rare plants, the Naturita milkvetch and little penstemon. Both plants were growing in disturbed areas beside and in the road, as well as in undisturbed sites. Another population of the Naturita milkvetch and a few individuals of the little penstemon were found near the former gravel pit overlooking the Dolores River west of Slickrock. This location also had a small but high quality example of a needle-and-thread grassland. Needle-and-thread grass provided a 75% cover, with blue grama appearing between the bunches. The few forbs in the site included prickly-pear cactus, sand aster, and fineleaf hymenopappus. There was no cheatgrass in this part of the site. This site contains a population of canyon tree frogs recorded at Corral Draw in 1992. Threats to this species appear to be modest or localized (CNHP 1999). It is primarily on BLM land with a small amount of private land. Highway 80 cuts through the site, and there are several side roads that create some disturbance and allow for weed invasion.

### 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 03/13/2000

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Designer Lyon, M.J. and J.R. Sovell

## Boundary Justification

The boundary encompasses the known occurrences of the rare plants and the grassland, but the extent of the pinyon-juniper woodland community is much larger. Further survey effort would be required to assess the size and quality of this community.

Primary Area 2,404.77 Acres 973.18 Hectares

## SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

## Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site contains a good occurrence of a plant community which is globally imperiled to secure and an occurrence of a frog species which is imperiled in Colorado. The primary factors justifying a conservation concern for canyon treefrogs are the small number of occurrences, restricted range and relatively low numbers (qualitative judgment) of individuals. There are no quantitative data on population size or trends.

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 State ID</u>	<u>State Scientific Name</u>	<u>State Common Name</u>	<u>Global Rank</u>	<u>State Rank</u>	<u>Driving Site Rank</u>
24830	<i>Pinus edulis</i> - <i>Juniperus</i> spp. / <i>Cercocarpus montanus</i> Woodland	Mesic Western Slope Pinyon-Juniper Woodlands	G5	S4	No
24857	<i>Hesperostipa comata</i> Great Basin Herbaceous Vegetation	Western Slope Grasslands	G2G4	S2	Yes
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 03/13/2000  
Version Author Lyon, M.J. and J.R. Sovell

## Disclaimer

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