

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Slick Rock

Site Code S.USCOHP*21250

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 1640 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 380215N
State Colorado Longitude 1085454W

Quad Code Quad Name
38108-A8 Horse Range Mesa

County
San Miguel (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name
14030002 Upper Dolores

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	5,440.00 Feet	1,658.00 Meters
Maximum Elevation	5,800.00 Feet	1,768.00 Meters

Site Description

Pinon - juniper woodlands and shrublands cover the hillsides of this site above the Dolores River. The site includes part of Slick Rock Hill, Poverty Flats and several slickrock canyons that are tributary to the Dolores River. Benches of Entrada sandstone and the Morrison Formation above the river support two rare plants, Naturita milkvetch (*Astragalus naturitensis*) and little penstemon (*Penstemon breviculus*). Other common species growing on the red sandy soils include the shrubs *Artemisia tridentata* ssp. *wyomingensis*, *Fendlera rupicola*, *Cercocarpus montanus*, *Opuntia polyacantha*, *Ephedra viridis*, and *Chrysothamnus viscidiflorus*; grasses *Hesperostipa comata*, *Oryzopsis hymenoides*, *Pleuraphis jamesii*, *Aristida purpurea* and *Bouteloua gracilis*; and forbs *Gutierrezia sarothrae*, *Hymenopappus filifolius*, *Astragalus mollissimus*, *A. amphioxys*, *Draba cuneifolia*, *Castilleja scabrida*, *Lesquerella rectipes*, *Chrysothamnus nauseosus*, *Physaria acutifolia*, *Tetranuris ivesiana* and *Heterotheca villosa*. Good cryptobiotic crust is present in undisturbed sites.

Key Environmental Factors

No Data

Climate Description

No Data

Land Use History

Recreation - ATVs, grazing

Cultural Features

No Data

SITE DESIGN

Site Map Y - Yes Mapped Date 10/13/2009

Designer Panjabi, S.S.

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes all of the known occurrences of *Astragalus naturitensis* and *Penstemon breviculus* in the area of Slick Rock, separated by 3.5 miles from the other closest occurrences.

Primary Area 3,555.18 Acres 1,438.74 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B2: Very High Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site supports an excellent (A-ranked) occurrence of a plant species which is imperiled on a global scale (G2G3/S2S3), Naturita milkvetch (*Astragalus naturitensis*), and a fair (C-ranked) occurrence of the globally vulnerable (G3/S2) little penstemon (*Penstemon breviculus*).

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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

Abundant populations of *Erodium cicutarium* and *Bromus tectorum* exist.

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>
21647	<i>Astragalus naturitensis</i>	Naturita milkvetch	G2G3	S2S3	Yes
23967	<i>Penstemon breviculus</i>	little penstemon	G3	S2	No

REFERENCES

Reference ID

Full Citation

194256

Lyon, P. and J. Hanson. 2006. Final Report: 2005 Rare Plant Survey of San Juan Public Lands, Colorado. Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Fort Collins, CO.

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

Original site design by Lyon, M.J. and J.R. Sovell. 2000-03-13.

VERSION

Version Date 10/16/2005

Version Author Lyon, M.J.

Disclaimer

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