

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Trickle Mountain

Site Code S.USCOHP*206

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 55 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 380913N
State Colorado Longitude 1062519W

Quad Code Quad Name

38106-B4	Trickle Mountain
38106-B3	Lake Mountain NE
38106-A4	Lake Mountain
38106-B5	North Pass
38106-A3	Laughlin Gulch

County

Saguache (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name

13010004 Saguache

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	7,500.00 Feet	2,286.00 Meters
Maximum Elevation	7,550.00 Feet	2,301.00 Meters

Site Description

The Trickle Mountain site includes the plateaus on the north and south sides of Saguache Creek. The site is best described as scenic mesa tops, small mountains, and dissecting canyons with a mosaic of montane woodlands and grasslands. This geologic landscape is unusual within Colorado. The vegetation reflects this unusual setting, with the plateaus dominated by a ring muhly (*Muhlenbergia filiculmis*) / lichen shortgrass prairie. The site is centered around Trickle Mountain, the highest point within the site. Bristle cone pine (*Pinus aristata*) with Arizona fescue (*Festuca arizonica*) dominates the peak while ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) with Arizona fescue or grasslands of mountain muhly (*Muhlenbergia montana*), ring muhly, and Arizona fescue dominate the lower slopes. The valleys between the plateaus are mostly a winterfat / blue grama (*Krascheninnikovia lanata* / *Bouteloua gracilis*) shortgrass prairie, which provides good habitat for Gunnison prairie dogs (*Cynomys gunnisoni gunnisoni*). All of these communities are free from non-native or invasive weed problems. Historical use of the area is varied, beginning with Ute Indians using some of the plateaus for tool making, followed by logging on Trickle Mountain in the early 1900's (several old mill sites are still visible). Current uses include livestock grazing and recreational hunting. Many two-track roads occur in the area, mostly limited to the valley bottoms, while the plateaus and mountains are mostly roadless. Many of the plateaus are hard to access and are potential Mountain Plover habitat (*Charadrius montanus*). These plateaus are heavily used by antelope (*Antilocapra americana*) in both winter and summer, and heavy browsing on the sparse mountain mahogany shrubs suggest mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*) use this area as well.

Key Environmental Factors

No Data

Climate Description

No Data

Land Use History

No Data

Cultural Features

No Data

SITE DESIGN

Site Map P - Partial Mapped Date 02/16/1998
Designer Rondeau, R.J.

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Boundary Justification

This boundary is drawn to encompass the occurrences and the habitat between. Further studies into the significance and extent of these unusual plateaus may eventually supply reason to extend the boundaries. Meanwhile, these boundaries should 1) protect the occurrences from direct impacts, and 2) provide suitable habitat where additional individuals and plant communities can become established over time. The boundaries were drawn with the assistance of approximately 1:200,000 satellite imagery and 7.5 minute topographic maps.

Primary Area 30,502.16 Acres 12,343.83 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B2: Very High Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site includes numerous globally rare grassland and woodland plant communities and associated rare plant and animal occurrences. Most significant are the excellent (A-ranked) and good (B-ranked) occurrences of the globally imperiled (G2/S2) *Muhlenbergia filiculmis* montane grassland.

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

There is some concern about the significance of the abundance of ring muhly. The Forest Service and Soil Conservation manual denote this species as an increaser following grazing activity. We found the ring muhly more abundant on the harder to access plateaus which suggest a more natural situation. Further investigation into the history of livestock grazing and fires of this area may shed light on this issue.

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>			
24543	<i>Festuca arizonica</i> - <i>Muhlenbergia montana</i> Herbaceous Vegetation	Montane Grasslands	G3	S2	No
24558	<i>Pinus ponderosa</i> / <i>Festuca arizonica</i> Woodland	Lower Montane Forests	G4	S4	No
21593	<i>Muhlenbergia filiculmis</i> Herbaceous Vegetation	Montane Grasslands	G2	S2	No
24707	<i>Festuca arizonica</i> - <i>Muhlenbergia filiculmis</i> Herbaceous Vegetation	Montane Grasslands	GU	S3	No
23977	<i>Oreocarya weberi</i>	Weber's catseye	G3	S3	No
24588	<i>Pinus aristata</i> / <i>Festuca arizonica</i> Woodland	Montane Woodlands	G4	S3	No
24543	<i>Festuca arizonica</i> - <i>Muhlenbergia montana</i> Herbaceous Vegetation	Montane Grasslands	G3	S2	No
21593	<i>Muhlenbergia filiculmis</i> Herbaceous Vegetation	Montane Grasslands	G2	S2	Yes
22904	<i>Aletes lithophilus</i>	rock-loving neoparrya	G3	S3	No
21593	<i>Muhlenbergia filiculmis</i> Herbaceous Vegetation	Montane Grasslands	G2	S2	Yes
21593	<i>Muhlenbergia filiculmis</i> Herbaceous Vegetation	Montane Grasslands	G2	S2	No
24558	<i>Pinus ponderosa</i> / <i>Festuca arizonica</i> Woodland	Lower Montane Forests	G4	S4	No
21593	<i>Muhlenbergia filiculmis</i> Herbaceous Vegetation	Montane Grasslands	G2	S2	Yes
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REFERENCES

Reference ID	Full Citation
-	No Data

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics
No Data

VERSION

Version Date 02/16/1998
Version Author Rondeau, R.J.

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