

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Upper Hell's Hole

Site Code S.USCOHP*27019

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 2463 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 395134N
 State Colorado Longitude 1090300W

Quad Code Quad Name

39109-G1 Dragon

County

Rio Blanco (CO)

Uintah (UT)

Watershed Code Watershed Name

14050007 Lower White

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	6,644.00 Feet	2,025.09 Meters
Maximum Elevation	6,835.00 Feet	2,083.31 Meters

Site Description

The Upper Hell's Hole site is located in Rio Blanco County at the Utah/Colorado state line, approximately 2.4 air miles due west of Rabbit Mountain and 1.5 air miles north of Park Canyon. The site is also roughly 17 air miles due west from State Highway 139, and 17 air miles due south from the point where Co Rd 21 (off of State 64 near Rangely) intersects the Utah/CO state line. The state line gate is on BLM 1215, and the site extends about 0.2 miles north of the gate on BLM 1215 and .72 mi south of that gate. The average width west to east is approximately 0.2 miles, and the approximate length is 1 mile from north to south. Soils are derived predominantly from shale of the Parachute Creek Member of the Green River Formation. The topography is composed of several low hills running north to south, separated by valleys dominated by greasewood (*Sarcobatus vermiculatus*) and cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*). Most of the slopes are south-facing, from gentle to quite steep (5 to 45 %) with scattered pinon pine (*Pinus edulis*) and mountain mahogany (*Cercocarpus montanus*) and intermittent Utah junipers (*Juniperus osteosperma*). Other plants common to the area include thistle beardtongue (*Penstemon pachyphyllus*), crispleaf wild buckwheat (*Eriogonum corymbosum*), oval-leaf buckwheat (*Eriogonum ovalifolium*), sand aster (*Chaetopappa ericoides*), wedgeleaf whitlow-grass (*Draba cuneifolia*), bluebunch wheatgrass (*Pseudoroegneria spicata*), Indian ricegrass (*Achnatherum hymenoides*), stickseed (*Lappula redowskii*), curleaf mountain mahogany (*Cercocarpus ledifolius*), shadscale (*Atriplex confertifolia*), dragon milkvetch (*Astragalus lutosus*), and western wheatgrass (*Pascopyrum smithii*).

Key Environmental Factors

No Data

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).

Land Use History

No Data

Cultural Features

Bordered by the Utah/Colorado state line.

SITE DESIGN

Site Map Y - Yes Mapped Date 12/15/2007
 Designer Lyon, M.J. and J. Huggins

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Boundary Justification

The boundary was drawn to encompass two rare plant occurrences and adjacent potential habitat on barren shale slopes. The habitat extends into Utah, but that area was not included.

Primary Area 181.47 Acres 73.44 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site encompasses a good (B-ranked) occurrence of globally vulnerable (G3) ephedra buckwheat (*Eriogonum ephedroides*), which is extremely rare (S1) in Colorado and on the BLM Sensitive Species List. There is also a good to fair (BC-ranked) occurrence of the globally critically imperiled subspecies (G4T1/S1) White River penstemon (*Penstemon scariosus* var. *albifluvis*).

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

Cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*) is present in the valleys between the low hills where the rare species are present, but does not seem to be spreading.

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>			
22839	<i>Eriogonum ephedroides</i>	ephedra buckwheat	G3	S1	Yes
16966	<i>Penstemon scariosus</i> var. <i>albifluvis</i>	White River penstemon	G4T1	S1	Yes

REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
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. < http://www.wrcc.dri.edu >.

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date 12/15/2007
Version Author Lyon, M.J. and J. Huggins

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