

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Ute Trail

Site Code S.USCOHP*10497

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 1764 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 384114N
State Colorado Longitude 1075111W

Quad Code Quad Name
38107-F7 Black Ridge

County
Delta (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name
14020002 Upper Gunnison
14020005 Lower Gunnison

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation 5,500.00 Feet 1,676.00 Meters
Maximum Elevation 6,500.00 Feet 1,981.00 Meters

Site Description

The Ute trail site is located on the steep western slopes above the Back Canyon of the Gunnison. The east-facing hillside has good examples of common pinyon-juniper communities, with some small, but high quality, patches of needle and thread grass. Both wetherill's milkvetch and large-flowered breadroot were found along the trail and in dry washes which are seasonally eroded. The habitat requirements of the two species appear to be similar, and the same two species have been found growing close together in Mesa County, also on the Wasatch formation. Some of the other plants associated with the rare species were eastwood's lomatium, Utah juniper, mormon tea, mountain mahogany, spiny greasewood, low rabbitbrush, bahia, and sand aster. We found the large-flowered breadroot to be more abundant than the wetherill's milkvetch. Small sub-populations of the milkvetch were found in only three washes, although much of the nearby adjacent area with similar habitat was searched. Nevertheless, the plants are likely to be present in other unsearched washes on the pinyon-juniper covered hillsides both upstream and downstream of the trail.

Key Environmental Factors

No Data

Climate Description

Arid semi-desert.

Land Use History

No Data

Cultural Features

No Data

SITE DESIGN

Site Map Y - Yes Mapped Date 12/01/1997
Designer Lyon, M.J.

Boundary Justification

The boundary is drawn to include the known locations of the rare plants, and the area between them on the same soil type. Not included in the site is a large area of potential habitat, both north and south of this site, which has not been searched due to difficulty of access.

Primary Area 377.74 Acres 152.87 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B4: Moderate Biodiversity Significance

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Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site supports a fair occurrence of a globally vulnerable (G3/S3) plant and a good occurrence of a state rare plant (G4/S3S4).

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</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> |
| 22584 | <i>Astragalus wetherillii</i> | Wetherill's milkvetch | G3 | S3 | Yes |

REFERENCES

| <u>Reference ID</u> | <u>Full Citation</u> |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| - | No Data |

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date 12/01/1997
Version Author Lyon, M.J.

Disclaimer

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