

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Wells Gulch

Site Code S.USWRO1*1374

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 1727 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 384826N
State Colorado Longitude 1081659W

Quad Code Quad Name

38108-G3 Dominguez
38108-G2 Point Creek

County

Delta (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name

14020005 Lower Gunnison

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	4,800.00 Feet	1,463.00 Meters
Maximum Elevation	5,400.00 Feet	1,646.00 Meters

Site Description

This broad, gently sloping shrub / grassland covers a large area east of the Gunnison River in western Delta County. Vegetation is characterized by shadscale with galleta grass, except on north-facing slopes where the dominant grass is salina wildrye. The hills are quite free of weeds, except for some cheatgrass. Low lying swales are dominated by greasewood, with seabligh and winterfat. Low areas tend to be weedier, with cheatgrass and halogeton. Associated vegetation in sites with Colorado hookless cactus was typical of other cactus sites, with shadscale, snakeweed, budsage, galleta, prickly-pear cactus, low rabbitbrush, globemallow, and Fendler's spring-parsley among the plants present. The clay soils derived from Mancos shale, with scattered basalt pebbles and cobbles on the surface, were also typical of other sites.

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 was drawn to include the occurrences of the large-flowered breadroot and both historic and new populations of the Colorado hookless cactus. Two semi-desert shrub plant communities occur within the site, and one community extends beyond the site boundaries.

Primary Area 3,460.85 Acres 1,400.56 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B2: Very High Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

The site supports an excellent (A-ranked) occurrence of the globally imperiled (G2G3/S2S3) Colorado hookless cactus (*Sclerocactus glaucus*). There are also globally common cold desert shrubland communities, *Atriplex confertifolia* / *Leymus salinus* (G3G5/S3) and *Atriplex confertifolia* / *Pleuraphis jamesii*

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(G3G5/S2).

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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

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>
16984	<i>Sclerocactus glaucus</i>	Colorado hookless cactus	G2G3	S2S3	Yes
24655	<i>Atriplex confertifolia</i> / <i>Leymus salinus</i> Shrubland	Cold Desert Shrublands	G3G5	S3	No
24753	<i>Atriplex confertifolia</i> / <i>Pleuraphis jamesii</i> Shrubland	Cold Desert Shrublands	G3G5	S2	No

REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
198627	Lyon, P. and B. Kuhn. 2010. Rare Plant Survey of Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area.
178765	Lyon, P. and E. Williams. 1997. Final Report: Natural Heritage Biological Survey of Delta County. Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Fort Collins, CO.

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date 12/09/2010
Version Author Kuhn, B. and M.J. Lyon

Disclaimer

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