

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name West Salt Creek

Site Code S.USCOHP*6822

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 368 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 391805N
State Colorado Longitude 1085826W

Quad Code Quad Name
39108-C8 Badger Wash

County
Mesa (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name
14010005 Colorado headwaters-Plateau

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	4,600.00 Feet	1,402.00 Meters
Maximum Elevation	4,900.00 Feet	1,494.00 Meters

Site Description

This site has one of the largest expanses of mat saltbush (*Atriplex corrugata*) and barren shale known in Mesa County. The greasewood/seablite association (*Sarcobatus vermiculatus/Suaeda torreyana*) is heavily invaded by cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*), Russian thistle (*Salsola australis*), and halogeton (*Halogeton glomeratus*), but has enough of the seablite to indicate that it would be the dominant native understory species. The Gardner saltbush/Salina wildrye (*Atriplex gardneri/Elymus salinus*) association occurs on higher ground, and is the site of the tall cryptantha (*Oreocarya elata*). The three associations form a mosaic pattern on the landscape. This site is typical of the condition of the salt desert shrublands in the county. Soils Description: Soils are mapped as the Bankard series, a Sandy-mixed, mesic, Ustic Torrifluvents (Soil Conservation Service 1978). Bankard soils are deep, well-drained and were formed in sandy alluvium on floodplains (Soil Conservation Service 1978). Restoration Potential: Unknown.

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 12/01/1996

Designer Lyon, M.J.

Boundary Justification

The boundary is drawn to enclose a mosaic of three desert shrub associations which are typical of the area, as well as the occurrences of tall cryptantha. It should be noted that recharge areas, which are critical to the maintenance groundwater flow supporting the saline bottomland shrublands, are not encompassed in the site boundaries. The origin and direction of groundwater flow needs to be determined.

Primary Area 880.80 Acres 356.45 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

The site supports a fair example of the globally imperiled (G2?) Gardner's mat saltbush shrublands (*Atriplex gardneri/Elymus salinus*). Fair examples of the saline bottomland shrublands (*Sarcobatus*

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vermiculatus/*Suaeda torreyana*) and tall cryptantha, which are vulnerable through their range, also occur at this site.

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 State ID</u>	<u>State Scientific Name</u>	<u>State Common Name</u>	<u>Global Rank</u>	<u>State Rank</u>	<u>Driving Site Rank</u>
18794	<i>Oreocarya elata</i>	cliff dweller's candlestick catseye	G3	S2	No
24515	<i>Atriplex corrugata</i> Dwarf-shrubland	Alkali Mat Saltbush Shrublands	G5	S2?	No
24633	<i>Atriplex gardneri</i> / <i>Leymus salinus</i> Dwarf-shrubland	Gardner's Mat Saltbush Shrublands	G2?	S2?	Yes
18794	<i>Oreocarya elata</i>	cliff dweller's candlestick catseye	G3	S2	No
24636	<i>Sarcobatus vermiculatus</i> / <i>Suaeda moquinii</i> Shrubland	Saline Bottomland Shrublands	GUQ	S2S3	No

REFERENCES

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

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date 12/01/1996
Version Author Lyon, M.J.

Disclaimer

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