

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name West Slope of Junction Butte

Site Code S.USCOHP*26013

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 2331 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 400214N
State Colorado Longitude 1062114W

Quad Code Quad Name
40106-A3 Junction Butte

County
Grand (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name
14010001 Colorado headwaters
14010002 Blue

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	7,950.00 Feet	2,423.16 Meters
Maximum Elevation	8,150.00 Feet	2,484.12 Meters

Site Description

Community occurs as an open, dispersed shrubland along a steep, west-facing slope. Slope has a few small draws, but is predominantly straight, with little ground cover and rocky soils. Geology consists of metamorphic rocks of the Precambrian Age, specifically biotic gneiss, schist, and migmatite. Utah serviceberry (*Amelanchier utahensis*) and alderleaf mountain mahogany (*Cercocarpus montanus*) are the dominant shrubs, with *Cercocarpus* being more common on upper slopes and *Amelanchier* on lower slopes. Other shrubs present include roundleaf snowberry (*Symphoricarpos rotundifolius*), wax currant (*Ribes cereum*), chokecherry (*Prunus virginiana*), and skunkbush sumac (*Rhus trilobata*). Graminoids dominate the herbaceous layer, but are not dense in any areas. Bluebunch wheatgrass (*Pseudoroegneria spicata*) is the dominant herbaceous species throughout, with Indian ricegrass (*Achnatherum hymenoides*) also common. Forbs present include tufted evening-primrose (*Oenothera caespitosa*), sulphur-flower buckwheat (*Eriogonum umbellatum*), white sagebrush (*Artemisia ludoviciana*), *Cryptantha* sp., and silverleaf phacelia (*Phacelia hastata*). Main disturbances are sloughing due to slope severity, wind, and freeze/thaw conditions.

Key Environmental Factors

Key environmental factors contributing to the biota of the site are slope, aspect, soil type, and elevation.

Climate Description

Climate likely follows patterns typical of this region of Colorado, being generally xeric throughout the year, with wet spring seasons and late summer "monsoons".

Land Use History

No Data

Cultural Features

No Data

SITE DESIGN

Site Map Y - Yes Mapped Date 12/28/2005
Designer Jones, J.R.

Boundary Justification

Boundaries include approximately 290 acres along the western slope of Junction Butte. Boundaries are drawn to encompass those environmental factors necessary to the maintenance of site biota including rocky soils, steep slope, western aspect, and generally xeric conditions. However, boundaries do not include all ecological processes influencing the site and activities along adjacent slopes such as improper grazing or recreational use and development may impact site biota.

Primary Area 288.73 Acres 116.85 Hectares

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SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site is drawn for a good (B-ranked) occurrence of the globally imperiled to globally vulnerable (G2G3/S2S3) plant community, Utah serviceberry / bluebunch wheatgrass (*Amelanchier utahensis* / *Pseudoroegneria spicata*) shrubland. This community type is probably more common than the global rank implies (most likely a G3 instead of a G2G3).

Other Values Rank V3 - Moderate values

Other Values Comments

The site provides moderate other values. It is part of the Junction Butte State Wildlife Area which is excellent habitat for deer, antelope, and other local wildlife. It also provides open space and aesthetics.

LAND MANAGEMENT ISSUES

Land Use Comments

Predominant land uses include livestock grazing and recreational uses such as hunting and OHV use.

Natural Hazard Comments

Steep slopes may be hazardous for travel.

Exotics Comments

There are some exotic species along roads, but none were observed within the occurrence.

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>
24865	<i>Amelanchier utahensis</i> / <i>Pseudoroegneria spicata</i> Shrubland	Mixed Mountain Shrublands	G2G3	S2S3	Yes

REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
193632	Culver, D.R. and Jones, J.R. 2006. Final Report: Survey of Critical Biological Resources in Grand County. Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Fort Collins, CO.
193578	NatureServe. 2005. NatureServe Explorer: An online encyclopedia of life [web application]. Version 4.6. NatureServe, Arlington, Virginia. Available http://www.natureserve.org/explorer . (Accessed: December 8, 2005).
192747	Tweto, O. 1979. Geologic Map of Colorado, 1:500,000. United States Geological Survey, Department of Interior, and Geologic Survey of Colorado, Denver, CO.
193553	USDA, NRCS. 2005. The PLANTS Database, Version 3.5 (http://plants.usda.gov). Data compiled from various sources by Mark W. Skinner. National Plant Data Center < http://npdc.usda.gov/ >, Baton Rouge, LA 70874-4490 USA. Accessed 2005.
172684	Weber, W.A. and R.C. Wittmann. 2001. Colorado Flora: Western Slope, Third Edition. University Press of Colorado, Niwot, CO.

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date 12/28/2005
Version Author Jones, J.R.

Disclaimer

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