

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Dudley Bluffs

Site Code S.USCOFO*63

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 1276 **Site Class** PCA
Site Alias Duck Creek
Site Alias Horse Draw
Site Alias Piceance Creek Bluffs
Site Alias Ryan Gulch
Site Alias Yellow Creek Bluffs
Site Alias Yellow Creek at Pinto Gulch

Network of Conservation Areas (NCA)

<u>NCA Site ID</u>	<u>NCA Site Code</u>	<u>NCA Site Name</u>
2469	S.USCOHP*27038	Piceance

County

Rio Blanco (CO)

SITE DESCRIPTION

Site Description

The site is situated in central Rio Blanco County, south of Highway 64 between Rangely and Meeker along the Piceance and Yellow creek drainages. It is irregularly shaped, but basically extends approximately 16 miles north to south and 12 miles east to west. The soils are decomposing shale of the Green River and Uinta Formations. These formations create a landscape of dissected tablelands in the Dudley Bluffs area. Shale outcrops are exposed along dry drainages through erosion from downcutting of streams (Spackman et al. 1997). Two rare plant species listed as federally Threatened grow on the exposed shale barrens. Associated plants in the rare plant communities include pinon pine (*Pinus edulis*), Utah juniper (*Juniperus osteosperma*), fringed sagebrush (*Artemisia frigida*), white sagebrush (*Artemisia ludoviciana*), Wyoming sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata* ssp. *wyomingensis*), shadscale (*Atriplex confertifolia*), rabbitbrush (*Chrysothamnus nauseosus*), skunkbush (*Rhus aromatica trilobata*), lavender-leaf evening primrose (*Calylophus lavandulifolius*), dwarf sand verbena (*Abronia elliptica*), Italian parsley (*Aletes anisates*), Barneby's thistle (*Cirsium barnebyi*), spearleaf wild buckwheat (*Eriogonum lonchophyllum*), spurge (*Euphorbia* sp.), ballhead ipomopsis (*Gilia congesta*), greasewood (*Sarcobatus vermiculatus*), fineleaf hymenopappus (*Hymenopappus filiformis*), rayless aster (*Macarantthera grindeliodes*), many-stem stickleaf (*Nuttallia multicaulis*), Torrey's bitterweed (*Tetranneuris torreyana*), thicketleaf beardtongue (*Penstemon pachyphyllus*), heliotrope phacelia (*Phacelia crenulata*), Hood's phlox (*Phlox hoodii*), bottlebrush squirreltail (*Elymus elymoides*), and Indian ricegrass (*Achnatherum hymenoides*).

Key Environmental Factors

Dry erodible soils, and intermittent moisture.

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

No Data

Minimum Elevation	5,850.00 Feet	1,783.08 Meters
Maximum Elevation	6,870.00 Feet	2,093.98 Meters

SITE DESIGN

Site Map P - Partial **Mapped Date** 04/08/2015
Designer Panjabi, S.S.

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Boundary Justification

The boundary incorporates the occurrences and additional suitable habitat which is adjacent. The Yellow Creek and Piceance Creek drainages and their tributaries are included where the rare plants have been documented. Future surveys will likely reveal new locations of plants that will expand the site boundary.

Primary Area 49,610.40 Acres 20,076.65 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B1: Outstanding Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

The site supports five excellent (A-ranked) and several good (B-ranked) occurrences of the globally critically imperiled (G1/S1) Dudley Bluffs bladderpod (*Lesquerella congesta*). There are also excellent (A-ranked), good (B-ranked) and fair (C-ranked) occurrences of Piceance twinpod (*Physaria obcordata*), which is globally critically imperiled (G1G2/S1S2). Both of these species are federally listed as Threatened. In addition, there is one good (B-ranked) occurrence of the globally imperiled (G2/S2) Piceance bladderpod (*Lesquerella parviflora*), which is on the BLM Sensitive Species list, and two good (B-ranked) occurrences of the globally vulnerable (G3/S3) many-stem stickleaf (*Nuttallia multicaulis*). There are also three good (B-ranked) occurrences and one historical occurrence of the globally imperiled subspecies (G3G4T2/S2) Fremont's beardtongue (*Penstemon fremontii* var. *glabrescens*), and an extant occurrence of the globally vulnerable (G3/S2) Rollins' cat's-eye (*Oreocarya rollinsii*).

Other Values Rank No Data

Other Values Comments

No Data

ASSOCIATED ELEMENTS OF BIODIVERSITY

Element State ID	State Scientific Name	State Common Name	Global Rank	State Rank	Driving Site Rank
17278	<i>Physaria obcordata</i>	Piceance twinpod	G1G2	S1S2	Y
17278	<i>Physaria obcordata</i>	Piceance twinpod	G1G2	S1S2	Y
17278	<i>Physaria obcordata</i>	Piceance twinpod	G1G2	S1S2	N
17278	<i>Physaria obcordata</i>	Piceance twinpod	G1G2	S1S2	N
17278	<i>Physaria obcordata</i>	Piceance twinpod	G1G2	S1S2	N
17327	<i>Physaria congesta</i>	Dudley Bluffs bladderpod	G1	S1	Y
17327	<i>Physaria congesta</i>	Dudley Bluffs bladderpod	G1	S1	Y
17327	<i>Physaria congesta</i>	Dudley Bluffs bladderpod	G1	S1	Y
17327	<i>Physaria congesta</i>	Dudley Bluffs bladderpod	G1	S1	Y
17327	<i>Physaria congesta</i>	Dudley Bluffs bladderpod	G1	S1	N
17327	<i>Physaria congesta</i>	Dudley Bluffs bladderpod	G1	S1	Y
17327	<i>Physaria congesta</i>	Dudley Bluffs bladderpod	G1	S1	N
18627	<i>Oreocarya rollinsii</i>	Rollins' cat's-eye	G3	S2	N
23569	<i>Nuttallia multicaulis</i>	Many-stem stickleaf	G3	S3	N
23569	<i>Nuttallia multicaulis</i>	Many-stem stickleaf	G3	S3	N
24426	<i>Penstemon fremontii</i> var. <i>glabrescens</i>	Fremont's beardtongue	G3G4T2	S2	N
24426	<i>Penstemon fremontii</i> var. <i>glabrescens</i>	Fremont's beardtongue	G3G4T2	S2	N
24426	<i>Penstemon fremontii</i> var. <i>glabrescens</i>	Fremont's beardtongue	G3G4T2	S2	N
24426	<i>Penstemon fremontii</i> var. <i>glabrescens</i>	Fremont's beardtongue	G3G4T2	S2	N

LAND MANAGEMENT ISSUES

Land Use Comments

No Data

Natural Hazard Comments

No Data

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Exotics Comments

No Data

Offsite

No Data

Information Needs

No Data

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.
170374	Naumann, T.S. Department of Botany Marsh Life Sciences Building University of Vermont
166962	Powell, R.L. 1991. Field Survey to Lower Dudley Gulch of April 22, 1991.
164970	Spackman, S., B. Jennings, J. Coles, C. Dawson, M. Minton, A. Kratz, and C. Spurrier. 1997. Colorado Rare Plant Field Guide. Prepared for the Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Forest Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service by the Colorado Natural Heritage Program.
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

Original site design by Reid, M. 1991-05-01. Revised by Doyle, G.A. 2005-10-29. Revised by Lyon, M.J. and J. Huggins. 2007-12-05.

LOCATORS

Nation	United States	Latitude	395923N
State	Colorado	Longitude	1081910W

<u>Quad Code</u>	<u>Quad Name</u>
39108-H2	Greasewood Gulch
39108-H4	Wolf Ridge
40108-A3	Barcus Creek SE
40108-A4	Barcus Creek
40108-A2	White River City
39108-G3	Rock School
39108-H3	Square S Ranch

<u>Watershed Code</u>	<u>Watershed Name</u>
14050006	Piceance-Yellow

VERSION

Version Date	04/08/2015
Version Author	Panjabi, S.S.

DISCLAIMER

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