

# Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Lower Greasewood Gulch

Site Code S.USCOHP\*27016

## IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 2460 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

### County

Rio Blanco (CO)

## SITE DESCRIPTION

### Site Description

This site is located in central Rio Blanco County within the Piceance Basin, approximately 2.25 air miles due south from the White River, in a wide gulch that runs west/northwest from Greasewood Creek (which runs south from Yellow Creek). The geology consists of the Uinta Formation with tan shales and Green River Formation with white shale. The gulch is bounded by low hills that are sparsely vegetated with scattered junipers. Where the rare narrow-stem gilia is dominant, associated species include fringed sage (*Artemisia frigida*), Wyoming sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata* ssp. *wyomingensis*), adobe milkweed (*Asclepias cryptoceras*), desert alyssum (*Allysum desertorum*), dragon milkvetch (*Astragalus lutosus*), shadscale (*Atriplex confertifolia*), false flax (*Camelina* sp.), mountain mahogany (*Cercocarpus montanus*), sandaster (*Chaetopappa ercoides*), cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*), common purple mustard (*Chorispora tenella*), rubber rabbitbrush (*Chrysothamnus nauseosus*), Barneby's thistle (*Cirsium barnebyi*), hawksbeard (*Crepis* sp.), pinnateleaf tansy mustard (*Descurainia pinnata*), spreading woolstar (*Eriastrum diffusum*), spearleaf wild buckwheat (*Eriogonum lonchophyllum*), ballhead ipomopsis (*Ipomopsis congesta*), snakeweed (*Gutierrezia sarothrae*), boreal chainpod (*Hedysarum boreale*), scarlet gilia (*Ipomopsis aggregata*), stickseed (*Lappula redowskii*), western tansy-aster (*Macarantnera grindelioides*), many-stem stickleaf (*Nuttallia multicaulis*), stemless evening-primrose (*Oenothera caespitosa*), juniper prickly pear (*Opuntia polyacantha*), Indian ricegrass (*Achnatherum hymenoides*), creeping penstemon (*Penstemon caespitosa*), penstemon (*Penstemon* sp.), rock goldenrod (*Petradoria pumila*), Hood's phlox (*Phlox hoodii*), longleaf phlox (*Phlox longifolia*), sharpleaf twinpod (*Physaria acutifolia*), bluebunch wheatgrass (*Pseudoroegneria spicata*), Utah juniper (*Sabina osteosperma*), senecio (*Senecio neomexicana*), perennial twistflower (*Streptanthus cordatus*) and gray horsebrush (*Tetradymia canescens*).

### Key Environmental Factors

Drought

### 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	5,800.00 Feet	1,767.84 Meters
Maximum Elevation	6,300.00 Feet	1,920.24 Meters

## SITE DESIGN

Site Map Y - Yes Mapped Date 12/11/2007  
Designer Lyon, M.J. and J. Huggins

### Boundary Justification

The boundary is drawn to encompass several locations of narrow-stem gilia and Fremont's beardtongue, as well as adjacent similar habitat that has not been thoroughly surveyed, but is also likely to contain these species.

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Primary Area 934.38 Acres 378.13 Hectares

## SITE SIGNIFICANCE

**Biodiversity Significance Rank** B2: Very High Biodiversity Significance

### Biodiversity Significance Comments

The site supports excellent (A-ranked) occurrences of the globally imperiled (G3G4T2/S2) Fremont's penstemon (*Penstemon fremontii* var. *glabrescens*) and the globally vulnerable (G3/S1) narrow-stem gilia (*Gilia stenothyrsa*).

**Other Values Rank** No Data

### Other Values Comments

No Data

## ASSOCIATED ELEMENTS OF BIODIVERSITY

<u>Element</u>			<u>Global Rank</u>	<u>State Rank</u>	<u>Driving Site Rank</u>
<u>State ID</u>	<u>State Scientific Name</u>	<u>State Common Name</u>			
24426	<i>Penstemon luculentus</i>	Fremont's Beardtongue	G3G4T2	S2	Y
18885	<i>Aliciella stenothyrsa</i>	Uinta Basin Gilia	G3	S2	N

## LAND MANAGEMENT ISSUES

### Land Use Comments

No Data

### Natural Hazard Comments

No Data

### Exotics Comments

Cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*) is ubiquitous. Common purple mustard (*Chorispora tenella*) is also present in several sites.

### Offsite

There has been some coal bed methane interest far to the west (Fletcher Gulch) but it has not been profitable to develop yet, so for the moment the area has no imminent development plans.

### Information Needs

No Data

## REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
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.
195034	WRCC. 2008. Western Regional Climate Center. Division of Atmospheric Sciences, Desert Research Institute. Reno, Nevada. < <a href="http://www.wrcc.dri.edu">http://www.wrcc.dri.edu</a> >.

## ADDITIONAL TOPICS

### Additional Topics

No Data

## LOCATORS

**Nation** United States **Latitude** 400828N  
**State** Colorado **Longitude** 1082440W

**Quad Code** **Quad Name**

40108-B4 Rough Gulch

**Watershed Code** **Watershed Name**

14050006 Piceance-Yellow

## VERSION

**Version Date** 12/11/2007

**Version Author** Lyon, M.J. and J. Huggins

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