

Land ownership is immensely rewarding— especially in the countryside. Purchasing the right piece of land is your first step. If you understand as much as possible about the property and its natural environment, you will be able to choose wisely.

In this report, you will find descriptions of the property’s basic natural features, topic by topic. Maps, pictures and explanations show what makes it a unique and special place. Regional descriptions and background images are included to provide context, because each piece of land is part of a larger natural landscape. A list of additional resources is included on the last page, so you can find out more.

This report is provided courtesy of:

A business card for Mindy Land Expert. The card has a light blue background with a red diagonal stripe at the bottom. On the right side, there is a portrait of Mindy, a woman with blonde hair wearing a light blue tank top. The text on the card is as follows:

Your Business Card Here

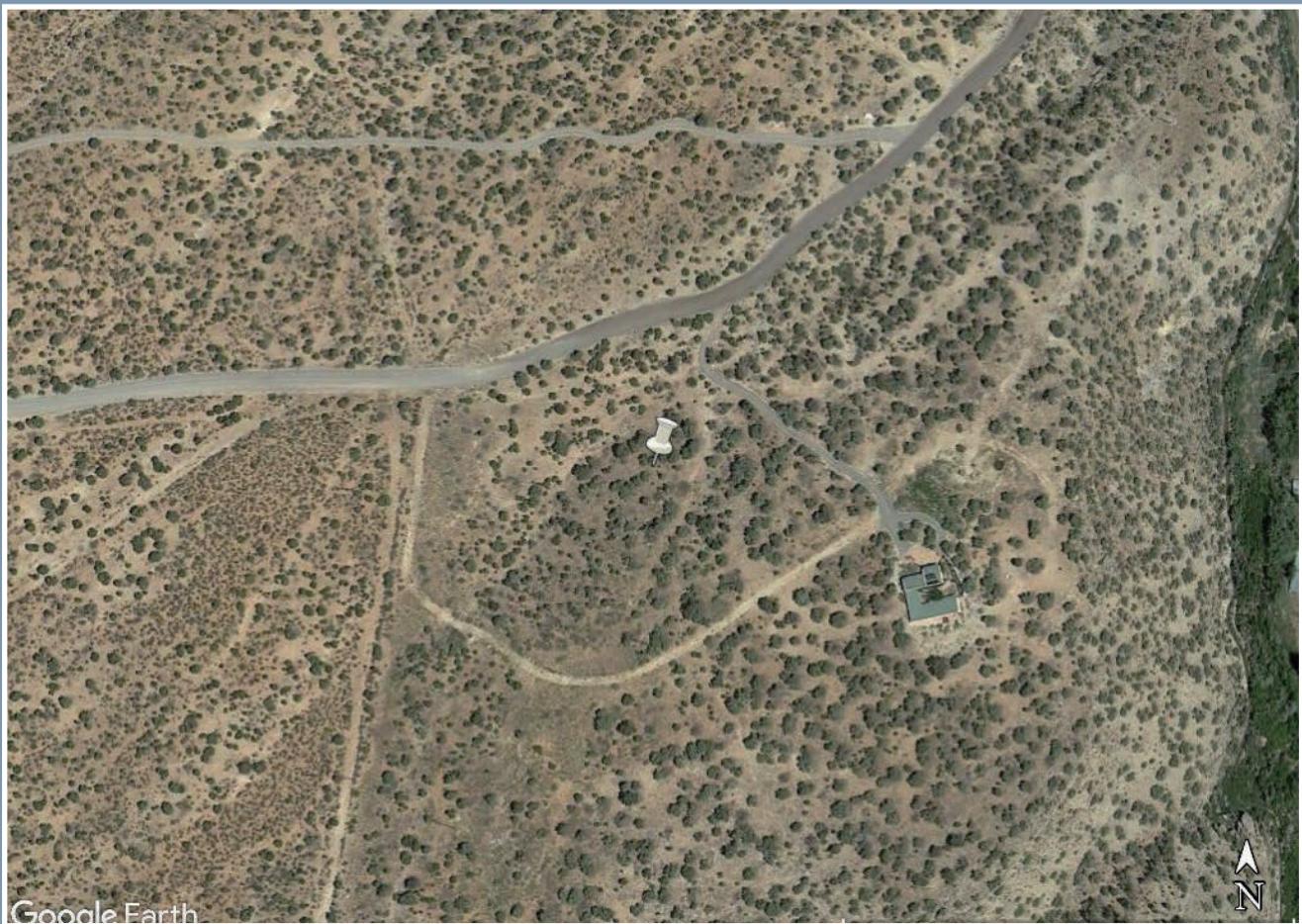
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Overview

The Natural Environment

17908 Paradox Trail, Montrose, Colorado



Google Earth

Image: Google Earth with data from Landsat / Copernicus

Prepared on July 29, 2017

by Applied Ecological Services for *Your Land Explained*

Terrain:

A key feature that strongly influences the environment. It affects the property's views, vegetation, weather, and even the way it feels.

Terrain and topography describe a stretch of land, its physical features and their arrangement. This property is located at an elevation of 6,344 feet, which affects its temperature and sunlight intensity. Compare the map and image for two perspective on the terrain. Closely spaced contour lines show areas of steeper slopes, and wider spaces show gentle slopes or flat areas. The direction that descending slopes face is the aspect. North facing aspects are cooler and moister while south aspects are warmer and drier. Slope amplifies this effect. Topography is a source of diversity and also modifies weather by affecting air currents. See the last page for more information.

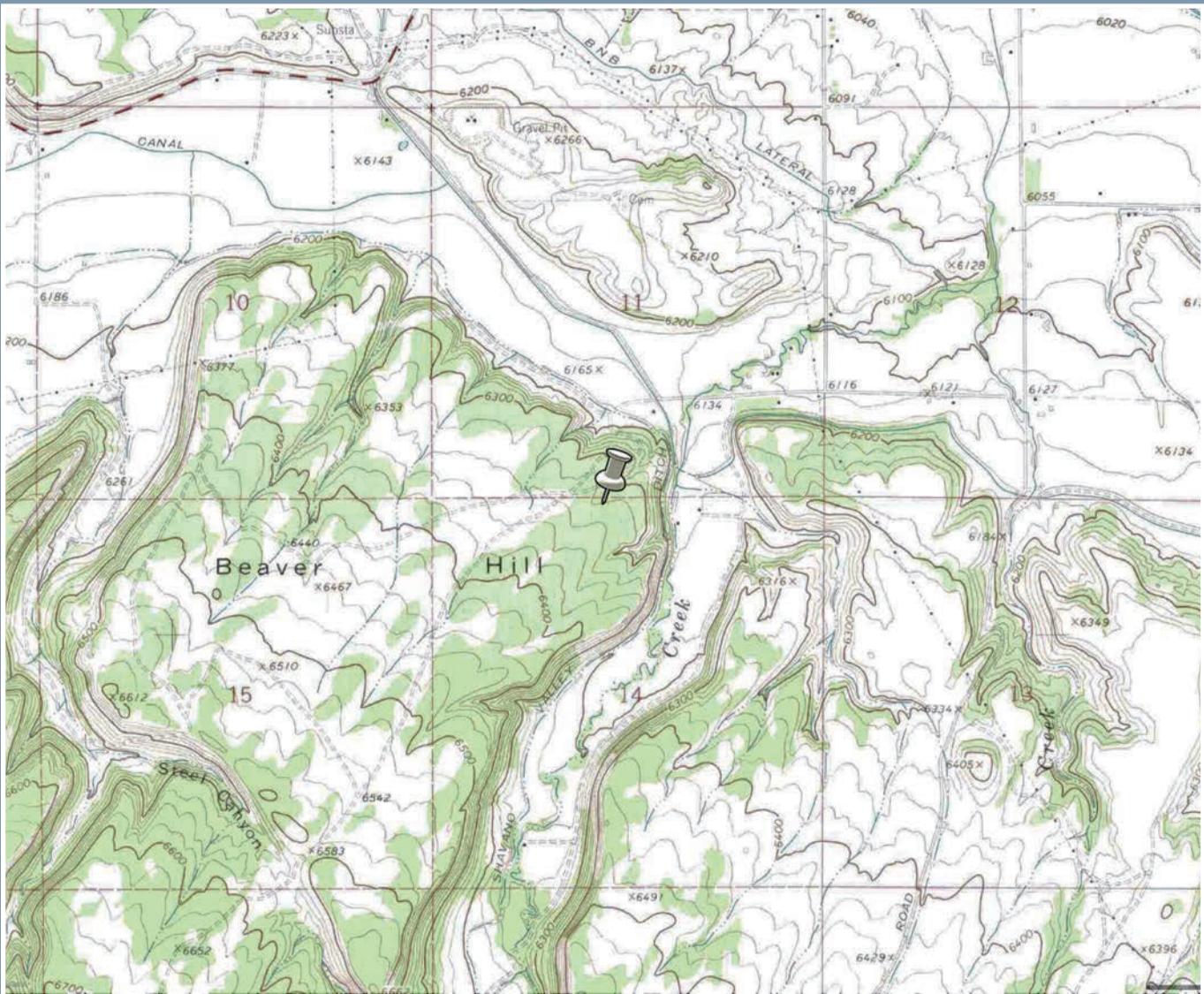


Image: Google Earth with data from Landsat / Copernicus and USGS Historic Topographic Quadrangles



Image: Google Earth with data from Landsat / Copernicus

How does this property compare? The terrain in this part of the ecoregion is noted for abrupt differences in elevation, and a variety of landforms including benches, mesas, alluvial fans, hillslopes, cliffs and canyons. Typically, cultivated cropland is usually limited to flat or gently sloping terrain. Flat, gentle and moderate slopes which are not too dry will support timber harvest. All but the steepest and roughest terrain can be used as rangeland depending on the type of livestock, while every terrain is suited for natural habitat. The terrain on this property could be perfect for your land use objectives. You might consider a different use if it is not ideal but has other desirable features.

What to Look For on the Land

Pay attention to how the same landscape looks from the ground level. In this picture of the property, you see a narrower field of view but in more detail. There are things you can see that were not clear from up above. These can include structures, infrastructure, changes to the vegetation, and places where the soil has been disturbed or the earth recontoured. A ground-level view does not show the landscape as well, but you should be able to see some more details about the terrain and ecoregion.



Soil:

Significant since it affects and even determines many of the plants, animals and potential uses on a piece of land. Understand the soil's basic features to ensure a wise purchase.

This image shows soil map units drawn in yellow around the property. Map units often group different soil components together. The table at right gives information about the property's main soil map unit and its primary soil component. There are many more soil characteristics, which you can explore in depth through the interactive soil map, accessible from the last page.

Before buying property, you should look up a few of the most important soil characteristics, namely depth, acidity, drainage, expansive potential, and capability. Soil capability shows what land uses the soil can sustain without causing long term damage. Shallow, poorly drained or expansive soils will complicate construction. Depth and acidity are good indicators of soil productivity, with deeper, neutral soils usually having more fertility and growing more vegetation. These are usually best



Image: Google Earth with data from Landsat / Copernicus and USDA-NRCS SSURGO database

for cropland as long as slopes are not too steep. Acid or alkali soils have reduced fertility and properties which restrict the types of plants that can grow there. They may support productive timber in areas where there is enough rainfall, and good range vegetation in drier areas. Natural habitat is not restricted by soil, but will be more diverse and interesting on properties where there are a variety of different soils. Visit the online map to learn more about soil features for this property.

Main Map Unit and Soil Component

Component Name	Geomorphic Position	Area Fraction
<u>Soil Type 1 Barboncito</u>	<i>cuestas</i>	70%
<u>Soil Type 2 Rock outcrop</u>		25%
<u>Soil Type 3 Gapmesa</u>	<i>dip slopes</i>	5%

The Barboncito series consists of very shallow and shallow, well drained, moderately and moderately slowly permeable soils that developed in sandy eolian and slope alluvium from sandstone and shale deposited over sandstone. Barboncito soils occur on hills, ridges, dipslopes of cuestas and summits of mesas. Slopes range from 1 to 5 percent. Mean annual precipitation is about 11 inches. Mean annual air temperature is about 48 degrees F.

How does this property compare? In this part of the ecoregion soils are generally dry and undifferentiated from parent material, saline or alkaline, and low in organic matter. Whether or not the soil on this property is well suited for your original objectives, it has other positive attributes that may work for you.

Vegetation:

Foundational since it determines much of a property's appearance, the habitat it provides, and how well the soil and water are protected.

Vegetation varies depending on what the plant species are, their abundance and life forms. From the ground, the larger plants look more widespread than they really are. A vegetation map makes it easier to see the extent and distribution of vegetation types. On this property, the most common types are pinyon-juniper woodland (green) and sagebrush shrubland (dark brown). Native plant species you can expect to find are shown on the next page. Except where farming or intensive management is underway, a mix of native vegetation types is typically more productive and resilient than uniform or nonnative vegetation. Vegetation can also create a fire hazard. If you are interested in building on rural property, be aware that fire can occur in all but the most barren vegetation types, but often can be mitigated. Links to more information are located on the last page.

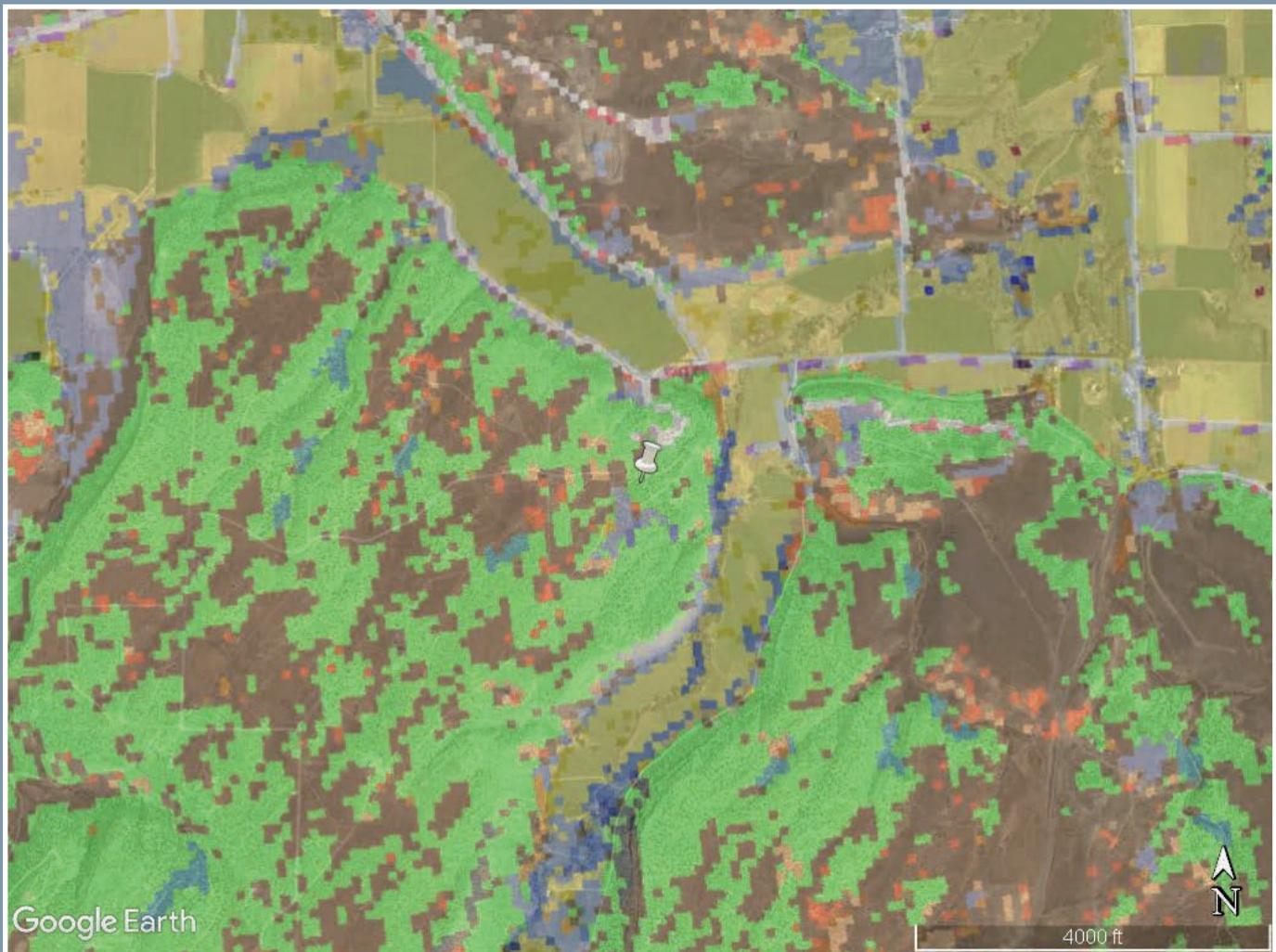


Image: Google Earth with data from Landsat / Copernicus and LANDFIRE



Utah juniper



pinyon pine



Rocky Mountain juniper



Spanish bayonet



blue grama



broom snakeweed

How does this property compare? This part of the ecoregion has a mix of pinyon-juniper woodland, Gambel oak woodland, and sagebrush shrubland at higher elevations, with desert shrubs and grasses like black sagebrush, winterfat, Mormon tea, and galleta grass dominating lower areas.

Land use affects and is affected by the natural vegetation. Agriculture removes vegetation but benefits if there are native plants nearby to support pollinators. Timber land requires forest dominated by marketable species or a tree plantation. Grassy vegetation with some shrubs and trees makes good rangeland. While any type of native vegetation is suitable for natural habitat, a variety of types will add diversity. This property's vegetation may be ideal to meet your needs. If not there are other values the vegetation supports.

More Information About This Area

US Ecoregion descriptions and map: [Ecoregions](#)

USGS Topographic maps for download: [topographic maps](#)

National Weather Service data: [climate and weather](#)

National geological map collection: [geologic maps](#)

State reference on potential geologic dangers: [Geological Hazards](#)

Historic and current mines: [hard rock mines](#)

Historic and current wells: [fluid mineral development](#)

Explanation of mineral rights ownership: [mineral rights](#)

Soil survey maps and information: [soil surveys](#)

Reducing fire risk to rural property: [Wildfire Mitigation](#)

Online atlas of wildlife species: [wildlife species](#)

Tips on minimizing conflicts with wildlife: [Living with Wildlife](#)

Water pollution maps and data: [water quality](#)

Flood zone maps: [flood zones](#)

State ground water information: [Well Data](#)

State regulations for water use : [State Water Rules](#)

This report was prepared by Applied Ecological Services for [Your Land Explained](#). Please contact us for additional information about the land use and environmental features on this property.



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Information Restoration Innovation