

APPENDIX VIII.

GAURA NEOMEXICANA SSP. COLORADENSIS INVENTORY,
F. E. WARREN AIR FORCE BASE, 1986

Warren Air Force Base (WAFB), west of Cheyenne, Wyoming, was surveyed for populations of Gaura neomexicana ssp. coloradensis during August, 1986. Survey routes are indicated on maps at the end of the Appendix.

Populations of Gaura neomexicana ssp. coloradensis on WAFB have been grouped into two occurrences. Detailed maps of these occurrences are included at the end of the Appendix. The first occurrence includes Diamond and Crow Creeks from the west boundary of the Base to below their confluence near Frontier Avenue. Habitat along Crow Creek below Frontier Avenue has been severely impacted by human use and only three isolated individuals of Colorado butterfly plant were found, immediately adjacent to the stream. This section of Crow Creek is heavily infested with Canada thistle (Cirsium arvense). The Crow Creek-Diamond Creek occurrence contained 5564 flowering second-year flowering plants in 1986. Plants were most heavily concentrated along Diamond Creek upstream from 9th Street, and along Crow Creek in the vicinity of FamCamp and upstream to the Base boundary. Smaller patches of plants and scattered individuals occur throughout the site. The second occurrence includes an unnamed drainage in the southwest corner of the Base from the west Base boundary east across Cheyenne Road to the culvert at Douglas Street and Parade Avenue. In 1986, 565 flowering adult plants were counted; most were growing a short distance east and west of Cheyenne Road.

Colorado butterfly plant had been reported to occur just south of Crow Creek near the east boundary of the Base. This site was carefully searched in 1986, but no plants were found, nor did the habitat seem appropriate for the taxon (too dry). Gaura parviflora grows in the area, and it is possible that the report was based on misidentification of this taxon.

The WAFB occurrences represent the greatest known concentration of Gaura neomexicana ssp. coloradensis, and the only known sites clearly eligible for protection under the Endangered Species Act should the taxon be listed.

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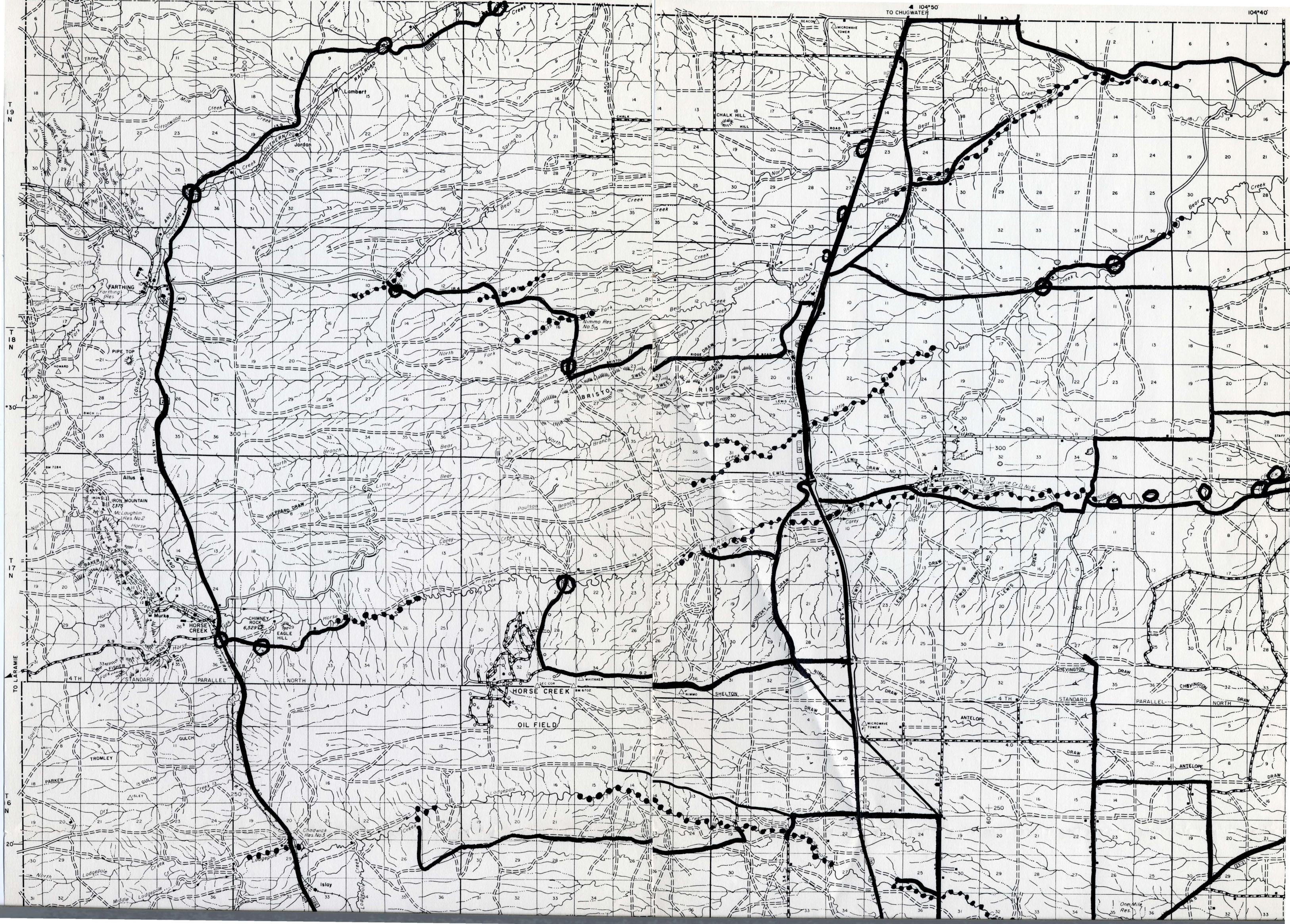
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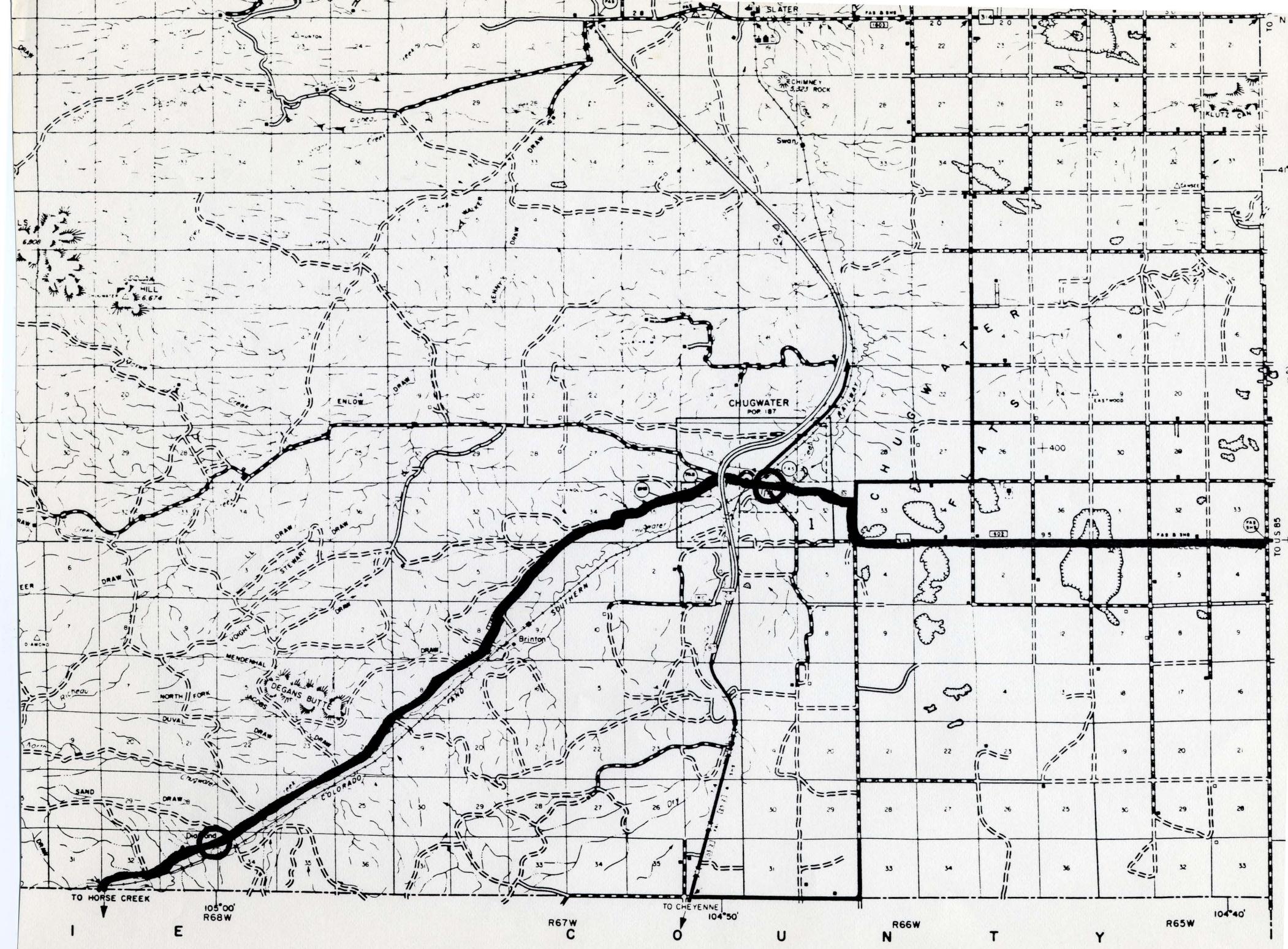
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