

# Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Badger Wash

Site Code S.USWRO1\*206

## IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 1502 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 391928N  
State Colorado Longitude 1085635W

Quad Code Quad Name  
39108-C8 Badger Wash

County  
Mesa (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name  
14010005 Colorado headwaters-Plateau

## SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	4,680.00 Feet	1,426.00 Meters
Maximum Elevation	5,300.00 Feet	1,615.00 Meters

### Site Description

Badger Wash contains an entire small watershed that has been used for hydrologic research since the 1950's (Colorado Department of Natural Resources 1994). The site consists of low Mancos shale hills with salt desert shrub vegetation. Hillsides are dominated by shadscale (*Atriplex confertifolia*) and Gardner saltbush (*A. gardneri*). Salina wildrye is locally abundant with the shrubs on undisturbed hillsides. Other native bunchgrasses such as Indian rice grass (*Oryzopsis hymenoides*) and needle-and-threadgrass (*Hesperostipa comata*) are occasionally present in small patches. The light gray soil and grey-green vegetation are accented by flowering shrubs- the yellow-flowering Grand buckwheat and the pink and white *Eriogonum bicolor* - and many spring wildflowers. The lower flat areas between the hills are covered with greasewood (*Sarcobatus vermiculatus*) or mat saltbush (*Atriplex corrugata*). There is heavy cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*) invasion in the bottoms. Four rare plant species, two significant natural communities, three imperiled small mammal species and a lizard, are found in the Badger Wash conservation site. The area has been impacted by roads to gas wells and pipelines.

### Key Environmental Factors

No Data

### Climate Description

arid salt desert

### Land Use History

No Data

### Cultural Features

No Data

## SITE DESIGN

Site Map Y - Yes Mapped Date 12/01/1996

Designer Lyon, M.J.

### Boundary Justification

The boundary was drawn to include the ACEC and the Badger Wash Experimental Site, as well as some nearby occurrences of the rare plant species. The Badger Wash state designated Natural Area is contained partly in this site and partly in the West Salt Creek site.

Primary Area 4,836.65 Acres 1,957.33 Hectares

## SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B2: Very High Biodiversity Significance

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## Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site contains a good (B-ranked) occurrence of the globally imperiled (G2?/S2?) Gardner's mat saltbush shrubland community (*Atriplex gardneri* / *Leymus salinus*). There is also a good (B-ranked) occurrence of the globally vulnerable (G3/S2) grand buckwheat (*Eriogonum contortum*) and a good (B-ranked) occurrence of the globally vulnerable (G3/S2) cliff dweller's candlestick catseye (*Oreocarya elata*). Other common plant communities have been documented and there are historic occurrences of other plants and animals.

Other Values Rank No Data

## Other Values Comments

No Data

## LAND MANAGEMENT ISSUES

## Land Use Comments

No Data

## Natural Hazard Comments

No Data

## Exotics Comments

*Bromus tectorum*, *Salsola*

## Offsite

Management of the area affects water quality entering the Colorado River.

## 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>
18794	<i>Oreocarya elata</i>	cliff dweller's candlestick catseye	G3	S2	No
24655	<i>Atriplex confertifolia</i> / <i>Leymus salinus</i> Shrubland	Cold Desert Shrublands	G3G5	S3	No
18559	<i>Eriogonum contortum</i>	grand buckwheat	G3	S2	No
18312	<i>Gambelia wislizenii</i>	Longnose Leopard Lizard	G5	S1	No
20544	<i>Allium nevadense</i>	Nevada onion	G4	S2	No
24633	<i>Atriplex gardneri</i> / <i>Leymus salinus</i> Dwarf-shrubland	Gardner's Mat Saltbush Shrublands	G2?	S2?	Yes
18312	<i>Gambelia wislizenii</i>	Longnose Leopard Lizard	G5	S1	No
18559	<i>Eriogonum contortum</i>	grand buckwheat	G3	S2	No
18559	<i>Eriogonum contortum</i>	grand buckwheat	G3	S2	No
24515	<i>Atriplex corrugata</i> Dwarf-shrubland	Alkali Mat Saltbush Shrublands	G5	S2?	No
18794	<i>Oreocarya elata</i>	cliff dweller's candlestick catseye	G3	S2	No
24633	<i>Atriplex gardneri</i> / <i>Leymus salinus</i> Dwarf-shrubland	Gardner's Mat Saltbush Shrublands	G2?	S2?	No
20544	<i>Allium nevadense</i>	Nevada onion	G4	S2	No
18559	<i>Eriogonum contortum</i>	grand buckwheat	G3	S2	No

## REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
173289	Lyon, P., C. Pague, R. Rondeau, L. Renner, C. Slater, and C. Richard. 1996. Final Report: Natural Heritage Inventory of Mesa County, Colorado. Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Fort Collins, CO.

## ADDITIONAL TOPICS

### Additional Topics

No Data

## VERSION

Version Date 12/01/1996  
Version Author Lyon, M.J.

## Disclaimer

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