

# Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Baldy Chato

Site Code S.USCOHP3\*2943

## IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 203 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 380156N  
State Colorado Longitude 1065552W

Quad Code Quad Name  
38106-A8 Stewart Peak

County  
Saguache (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name  
14020002 Upper Gunnison  
14020003 Tomichi

## SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation 12,320.00 Feet 3,755.00 Meters  
Maximum Elevation 13,795.00 Feet 4,205.00 Meters

### Site Description

This site encompasses the east-facing slopes below Baldy Chato's south ridge. This south ridge is approximately 1.25 miles long, averages 13,200 feet in elevation and reaches its high-points at 13,401 feet to the north, and 13,795 feet to the south. The area is comprised of alpine tundra, with extensive patches of *Salix nivalis* on rocky, coarse soils, while grasses (*Kobresia* and *Festuca* spp.) dominate areas of well developed soils. Typically, large snow banks form high on the east side of the ridge, providing late-season moisture to areas below. This site encompasses the headwaters of Pauline Creek which conflows with Cochetopa Creek to the northeast.

### Key Environmental Factors

No Data

### Climate Description

No Data

### Land Use History

No Data

### Cultural Features

No Data

## SITE DESIGN

Site Map P - Partial Mapped Date 09/03/1996  
Designer Ellingson, A.R.

### Boundary Justification

The boundary is intended to adequately protect areas currently occupied by *Boloria improba acrocneuma* as well as immediately adjacent areas of suitable habitat which have potential for colonization. The long-term persistence of the *B. improba acrocneuma* populations will be favored by the protection of an area larger than that which is occupied by the colonies in any one year. Observations of *B. improba acrocneuma* on habitat patches outside of known colony areas at the intensively studied Uncompahgre and Redcloud sites (Brussard and Britten 1989, Gall 1984) suggest that dispersal, and potentially colonization, may be a process important to the population's viability. Habitat heterogeneity may also be related to long-term persistence in butterflies (Ehrlich and Murphy 1987), a habitat component enhanced by a large protected area.

Primary Area 718.77 Acres 290.88 Hectares

## SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B2: Very High Biodiversity Significance

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## Biodiversity Significance Comments

Two colonies of the globally critically imperiled (G5T1/S1) Uncompahgre fritillary (*Boloria improba acrocneuma*) are known in good (B-ranked) condition. This site is primarily designated for this species of butterfly, a glacial relict endemic to the San Juan Mountains of southwest Colorado and is only known from seven colonies containing 14 populations. The large expanse of habitat at this location, combined with its overall good condition, suggests that this species may have long term viability at this site. Additionally, the white-veined arctic butterfly (*Oeneis taygete*), a state rare (G5/S3) species, also considered to be a glacial relict, is known from this location. The presence of these rare glacial relict species indicates that this is an important site, likely a refuge for arctic species that were once common along glacial margins during the Wisconsin glaciation.

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

No Data

### Offsite

No Data

### 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>
20626	<i>Oeneis bore</i>	White-veined Arctic	G5	S3	No
18698	<i>Boloria improba acrocneuma</i>	Uncompahgre Fritillary	G5T1	S1	Yes

## REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
168096	Brussard, P. F. and H. Britten. 1989. The Status of the Uncompahgre Fritillary BOLORIA ACROCNEMA. Final Report. Department of Biology, Montana State University, Bozeman, Montana.
158500	Gall, L.F. 1984. Population structure and recommendations for conservation of the narrowly endemic alpine butterfly BOLORIA ACROCNEMA (Lepidoptera:Nymphalidae). Biological Conservation 2:(1984) 111-138.

## ADDITIONAL TOPICS

### Additional Topics

No Data

## VERSION

Version Date 09/03/1996  
Version Author Ellingson, A.R.

## Disclaimer

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