

# Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Buzzard Creek

Site Code S.USCOHP\*28155

## IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 2701 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 391211N  
State Colorado Longitude 1073726W

### Quad Code Quad Name

39107-B6 Porter Mountain  
39107-B5 Spruce Mountain

### County

Mesa (CO)

### Watershed Code Watershed Name

14010005 Colorado headwaters-Plateau

## SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	8,400.00 Feet	2,560.32 Meters
Maximum Elevation	8,650.00 Feet	2,636.52 Meters

### Site Description

The site follows Buzzard Creek, and includes the slopes on the east and west sides of the creek. It comprises a shrub community dominated by Gambel oak (*Quercus gambelii*) and serviceberry (*Amelanchier utahensis*), with an understory dominated by Thurber's fescue (*Festuca thurberi*), silvery lupine (*Lupinus argenteus*), Woods' rose (*Rosa woodsii*) and sticky purple gentian (*Geranium viscosissimum*). On the east side of the road, aspen groves occur on the upper slopes. The lowest elevation at the site is found in the bottoms of Buzzard Creek (8,400 ft). The highest elevation is found on the east side of FS Rd 265 (8,650 ft). Boreal toads (*Bufo boreas*) are known from Buzzard Creek (Jackson 2008), but our attempts to relocate the population was unsuccessful in the 2010 field season.

### Key Environmental Factors

No Data

### Climate Description

No Data

### Land Use History

Site is grazed.

### Cultural Features

No Data

## SITE DESIGN

Site Map Y - Yes Mapped Date 08/20/2010  
Designer Lyon, M.J. and B. Kuhn

### Boundary Justification

The boundary is drawn to include occurrences of *Penstemon mensarum* along both sides of Forest Service Road 265, along with riparian corridor of Buzzard Creek.

Primary Area 592.40 Acres 239.74 Hectares

## SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

### Biodiversity Significance Comments

The site contains a (B-ranked) occurrence of the globally vulnerable (G3/S3) Grand Mesa penstemon (*Penstemon mensarum*), with approximately 500 individuals counted.

Other Values Rank No Data

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## 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>
19689	<i>Penstemon mensarum</i>	Grand Mesa penstemon	G3	S3	Yes

### REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
198685	Jackson, T. 2008. Report on the Status and Conservation of the Boreal Bufo boreas boreas in the Southern Rocky Mountains 2006- 2007.
198684	Lyon, P. and B. Kuhn. 2010. CNHP Final Report: Grand Mesa National Forest Rare Plant and Boreal Toad Survey 2010. Colorado Natural Heritage Program. Fort Collins, CO.

### ADDITIONAL TOPICS

## Additional Topics

No Data

### VERSION

<b>Version Date</b>	08/20/2010
<b>Version Author</b>	Lyon, M.J. and B. Kuhn

### Disclaimer

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