

# Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name East Salt Creek at Sugarloaf Peak

Site Code S.USCOHP\*22894

## IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 10 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 391110N  
State Colorado Longitude 1075046W

Quad Code Quad Name  
39107-B7 Vega Reservoir

County  
Mesa (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name  
14010005 Colorado headwaters-Plateau

## SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	7,200.00 Feet	2,195.00 Meters
Maximum Elevation	9,600.00 Feet	2,926.00 Meters

### Site Description

East Salt Creek drains north off the Grand Mesa in a medium wide valley. Riparian vegetation consists of scattered shrubs such as river birch (*Betula occidentalis*) and a dense understory of herbaceous species. There is a high cover of non-native hay grasses such as timothy (*Phleum pratense*) and redtop (*Agrostis gigantea*). An agricultural water diversion alters natural hydrology. Beaver ponds are scattered along the creek. Soils along the drainage are derived from alluvium. Soils near beaver ponds and along streambanks are more developed.

### Key Environmental Factors

No Data

### Climate Description

No Data

### Land Use History

No Data

### Cultural Features

No Data

## SITE DESIGN

Site Map Y - Yes Mapped Date 12/03/2001  
Designer Rocchio, F.J.

### Boundary Justification

Boundaries are drawn to encompass the ecological processes believed necessary for long term viability of the elements. These boundaries will ensure continued natural surface flow and thus allow fluvial processes such as flood scouring, lateral flow, and channel meandering, to maintain a dynamic distribution of riparian and wetland plant associations along the drainage.

Primary Area 4,048.84 Acres 1,638.52 Hectares

## SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B4: Moderate Biodiversity Significance

### Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site supports a good occurrence of the apparently globally secure (G4) foothills riparian shrubland (*Betula occidentalis* / mesic forb). This plant association is a tall (5-8 ft., 1.5-2.5 m), narrow band of shrubs lining a stream channel. The undergrowth can be sparse or a thick carpet of grasses and forbs. In undisturbed stands, forb species richness can be high, with over thirty species in one stand. This association is well documented in the western states. In Colorado, fewer than thirty stands are documented, and while

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more are estimated to occur, this association is highly threatened by development, road building, and recreation.

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>
24686	<i>Betula occidentalis</i> / <i>Maianthemum stellatum</i> Shrubland	Foothills Riparian Shrubland	G4?	S2	Yes

## REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
169188	Rocchio, Joe. 2001. Colorado Natural Heritage Program Survey of Critical Wetlands of Mesa County.

## ADDITIONAL TOPICS

### Additional Topics

No Data

## VERSION

Version Date 12/03/2001  
Version Author Rocchio, F.J.

## Disclaimer

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