

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Fruita and Monument Canyons

Site Code S.USCOHP*4703

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 815 **Site Class** PCA
Site Alias Balance Rock
Site Alias Fruita Reservoir Site
Site Alias Monument Canyon Site
Site Alias Steep Draw Site

Network of Conservation Areas (NCA)

NCA Site ID 883 **NCA Site Code** S.USWRO1*1045 **NCA Site Name** Colorado National Monument

LOCATORS

Nation United States **Latitude** 390533N
State Colorado **Longitude** 1084323W

Quad Code Quad Name

39108-A6 Colorado National Monument

County

Mesa (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name

14010005 Colorado headwaters-Plateau

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation 4,600.00 **Feet** 1,402.00 **Meters**
Maximum Elevation 5,820.00 **Feet** 1,774.00 **Meters**

Site Description

This spectacular site includes the west entrance to Colorado National Monument, and the north end of the park. A paved road leads from Fruita to the canyon rims. Included in the site are such well-known formations as Balance Rock and Independence Monument. One of only three known Colorado locations for the Canyonlands lomatium (*Lomatium latilobum*) is found at the base of Balance Rock in seasonally wet gullies in the Chinle sandstone. The same habitat supports the Osterhout cryptantha (*Cryptantha osterhoutii*). Seasonal pools along the drainages support populations of the canyon treefrog (*Hyla arenicolor*). There are few non-native species in the park, and thus excellent examples of common associations occur in this site. These associations include various combinations of Utah juniper (*Juniperus osteosperma*), pinon pine (*Pinus edulis*), mountain mahogany (*Cercocarpus montanus*), Mormon tea (*Ephedra* sp.), and Utah serviceberry (*Amelanchier utahensis*). Soils along drainages are derived from alluvium.

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** 09/18/1996
Designer Lyon, M.J.

Boundary Justification

Boundaries are drawn to include the cluster of element occurrences in the northwestern part of Colorado National Monument. The site boundaries also incorporate upstream drainages which are critical to maintaining natural hydrological processes that provide breeding spots for the canyon tree frog and Great Basin spadefoot toad.

Primary Area 3,915.67 **Acres** 1,584.62 **Hectares**

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B2: Very High Biodiversity Significance

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Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site supports a good (B-ranked) occurrence of the globally critically imperiled (G1/S1) Canyonlands lomatium (*Lomatium latilobum*). This species is a regional endemic, that occurs in pinon - juniper and desert shrub associations between 4,800 and 6,855 feet elevation (Atwood 1991; Welsh 1987) and is arguably the most biologically important rare plant in Mesa County, and one of the rarest plants in Colorado. It is known only from thirteen locations in Grand and San Juan Counties in Utah, and three locations in Mesa County (Franklin 1995). The site also supports the state imperiled (S2) canyon tree frog, a wetland dependent species. The canyon tree frog inhabits rocky canyons along intermittent or permanent streams. This desert frog reaches its northern limits in Southern Colorado. Although primarily terrestrial, it breeds in canyon bottom pools surrounded by rock. It is usually found near permanent pools or cottonwoods in the pinon - juniper zone.

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 State ID</u>	<u>State Scientific Name</u>	<u>State Common Name</u>	<u>Global Rank</u>	<u>State Rank</u>	<u>Driving Site Rank</u>
21063	<i>Oreocarya osterhoutii</i>	Osterhout cat's-eye	G2G3	S2	No
21654	<i>Plecotus townsendii pallescens</i>	Townsend's Big-eared Bat Subsp	G4T4	S2	No
21598	<i>Spea intermontana</i>	Great Basin Spadefoot	G5	S3	No
19470	<i>Centaurium exaltatum</i>	Great Basin centaury	G5	S1	No
21725	<i>Falco peregrinus anatum</i>	American Peregrine Falcon	G4T4	S2B	No
18312	<i>Gambelia wislizenii</i>	Longnose Leopard Lizard	G5	S1	No
20544	<i>Allium nevadense</i>	Nevada onion	G4	S2	No
19160	<i>Hyla arenicolor</i>	Canyon Treefrog	G5	S2	No
19708	<i>Vulpes macrotis</i>	Kit Fox	G4	S1	No
18676	<i>Aletes latilobus</i>	Canyonlands aletes	G1	S1	Yes
24055	<i>Sporobolus flexuosus</i>	mesa dropseed	G5	S1S2	No
20544	<i>Allium nevadense</i>	Nevada onion	G4	S2	No
18312	<i>Gambelia wislizenii</i>	Longnose Leopard Lizard	G5	S1	No
19160	<i>Hyla arenicolor</i>	Canyon Treefrog	G5	S2	No
18115	<i>Pediomelum aromaticum</i>	Paradox breadroot	G3	S2	No
24362	<i>Oreocarya longiflora</i>	long-flower cat's-eye	G3	S3	No
19470	<i>Centaurium exaltatum</i>	Great Basin centaury	G5	S1	No

REFERENCES

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Reference ID

Full Citation

166261

Atwood, D. et al. 1991. Utah Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Plant Field Guide. US Forest Service Region 4, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, Utah Natural Heritage Program, US Fish & Wildlife Service, EPA Region 8, Navajo Natural Heritage Program, Skull Valley Goshute Tribe.

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 09/18/1996

Version Author Lyon, M.J.

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