

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Lizard Head

Site Code S.USCOHP*21243

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 1104 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 375016N
State Colorado Longitude 1075649W

Quad Code Quad Name
37107-G8 Mount Wilson

County
San Miguel (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name
14030003 San Miguel
14030002 Upper Dolores

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation 11,800.00 Feet 3,597.00 Meters
Maximum Elevation 12,800.00 Feet 3,901.00 Meters

Site Description

Lizard Head is a well-known landmark in San Miguel County. The volcanic intrusion that once had the shape of a Lizard's Head, has since lost its nose, but the surrounding area beneath the monolith is as magnificent as ever. As one climbs, vegetation changes from aspen, to moist spruce-fir forests, and finally alpine tundra. On the alpine slopes at the base of Lizard Head, researchers found two plant species that are rare in Colorado, the Altai chickweed and the common moonwort. The chickweed was found in a north-facing cirque to the northeast of the massif. It was growing among treacherous, unstable talus ranging in size from large blocks to gravel, composed of volcanic materials from the cliffs above. Associated plant species in the area included king's crown, Indian paintbrush, spike trisetum, alpine avens, Colorado columbine, kittentails, wallflower, sheep sorrel, and sky pilot. There were no exotic plant species present. Several sub-populations consisting of thousands of individuals in a pristine setting were located. Although adjacent similar habitats were searched, the chickweed was not present. The common moonwort was also growing in loose scree, about one to ten centimeters in diameter, on a steep slope northeast of the chickweed site. Associated taxa at that location included black groundsel (a frequent companion to moonworts), King's crown, rose paintbrush, New Mexican groundsel, edible valerian, and Whipple penstemon. This PCA is within the Lizard Head Wilderness of the Uncompahgre National Forest. Any disturbance to the site is likely to be natural.

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 03/13/2000
Designer Lyon, M.J. and J.R. Sovell

Boundary Justification

The boundary is drawn to include the scree slopes northeast of Lizard Head, the site of several rare plant populations.

Primary Area 81.81 Acres 33.11 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Lizard Head

Site Code S.USCOHP*21243

Biodiversity Significance Rank B4: Moderate Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site contains an excellent occurrence of plant species which is imperiled in Colorado.

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>
17150	<i>Stellaria irrigua</i>	Altai chickweed	G4?	S2	Yes

REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
-	No Data

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date	03/13/2000
Version Author	Lyon, M.J. and J.R. Sovell

Disclaimer

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Lizard Head

Site Code S.USCOHP*21243

These data are a product and property of Colorado State University, Colorado Natural Heritage Program (CNHP). These data are strictly "on loan" and should be considered "works in progress". Data maintained in the Colorado Natural Heritage Program database are an integral part of ongoing research at CSU and reflect the observations of many scientists, institutions and our current state of knowledge. These data are acquired from various sources, with varying levels of accuracy, and are continually being updated and revised. Many areas have never been surveyed and the absence of data in any particular geographic area does not necessarily mean that species or ecological communities of concern are not present. These data should not be regarded as a substitute for on-site surveys required for environmental assessments. Absence of evidence is NOT evidence of absence. Absence of any data does not mean that other resources of special concern do not occur, but rather CNHP files do not currently contain information to document this presence. CNHP is not responsible for whether other, non-CNHP data providers have secured landowner permission for data collected.

These data are provided for non-commercial purposes only. Under no circumstances are data to be distributed in any fashion to outside parties. To ensure accurate application of data, tabular and narrative components must be evaluated in conjunction with spatial components. Failure to do so constitutes a misuse of the data. The Colorado Natural Heritage Program shall have no liability or responsibility to the data users, or any other person or entity with respect to liability, loss, or damage caused or alleged to be caused directly or indirectly by the data, including but not limited to any interruption of service, loss of business, anticipatory profits or indirect, special, or consequential damages resulting from the use of operation of the data. Data users hereby agree to hold CNHP, Colorado State University, and the State of Colorado harmless from any claim, demand, cause of action, loss, damage or expense from or related to data users use of or reliance on the data, regardless of the cause or nature thereof, and even in the event that such cause is attributable to the negligence or misconduct of CNHP.

These data are provided on an as-is basis, as-available basis without warranties of any kind, expressed or implied, INCLUDING (BUT NOT LIMITED TO) WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY, FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE, AND NON-INFRINGEMENT. Although CNHP maintains high standards of data quality control, CNHP, Colorado State University, and the State of Colorado further expressly disclaim any warranty that the data are error-free or current as of the date supplied