

# Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Montezuma

Site Code S.USCOHP3\*2464

## IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 855 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 393321N  
State Colorado Longitude 1055042W

### Quad Code Quad Name

39105-E7 Montezuma  
39105-E8 Keystone

### County

### Watershed Code Watershed Name

14010002 Blue

## SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	10,000.00 Feet	3,048.00 Meters
Maximum Elevation	11,400.00 Feet	3,475.00 Meters

### Site Description

The Montezuma site consists of three glaciated valleys. Saint John Creek, Deer Creek, and the Snake River drain the site. The prominent peaks that border the site include: Bear, Glacier, Teller, Landslide, and Geneva Peaks. The site supports an extensive willow carr that is approximately 2,800 acres ranging in elevation from 3,000 m (10,000 ft.) to 3,420 m (11,400 ft.). There are excellent occurrences of subalpine riparian willow carrs (*Salix planifolia* / *Carex aquatilis* and *Salix planifolia* / *Caltha leptosepala*) located mainly on National Forest lands. There is a good occurrence of a subalpine riparian willow carr (*Salix planifolia* / *Calamagrostis canadensis*) that is located near the town of Montezuma and a breeding occurrence of the southern Rocky Mountain boreal toad. The site supports a series of beaver ponds that are fed by Deer Creek, Saint John Creek, Snake River, intermittent streams, and several springs. There are several areas where fens (peat-accumulating wetland that is supported by ground water discharge) have been created from groundwater discharge, such as the area 1 mile north of Webster Pass.

### Key Environmental Factors

The wetlands were heavily mined evidenced by tailings and abandoned equipment throughout much of the site. The site is bisected by 4WD roads that allow access to the alpine areas. These roads are utilized by both private and commercial enterprises.

### Climate Description

No Data

### Land Use History

No Data

### Cultural Features

No Data

## SITE DESIGN

Site Map P - Partial Mapped Date 04/04/1996  
Designer Culver, D.R.

### Boundary Justification

The boundary drawn encompasses the riparian areas adjacent to Deer Creek, Saint John Creek, and the Snake River from timberline to its confluence with the Snake River north to 0.5 miles north of Montezuma. The boundary incorporates the town of Montezuma due to the potential boreal toad habitat located within the town limits. This boundary also includes a buffer zone along the talus slopes to protect the willow carr and the southern Rocky Mountain boreal toad habitat from direct disturbances such as mining, ORV, and road improvements.

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Primary Area 1,350.45 Acres

546.51 Hectares

## SITE SIGNIFICANCE

**Biodiversity Significance Rank** B4: Moderate Biodiversity Significance

### Biodiversity Significance Comments

The Montezuma site supports excellent (A-ranked) examples of subalpine riparian willow carrs (*Salix planifolia* / *Carex aquatilis* and *Salix planifolia* / *Caltha leptosepala*) and a good (B-ranked) example of a subalpine riparian willow carr (*Salix planifolia* / *Calamagrostis canadensis* - *Carex aquatilis*). There is a 2000 occurrence of the state endangered southern Rocky Mountain Boreal toad (*Bufo boreas boreas*). There was no evidence of breeding in 1996 or 1997 (Horstman 1996; 1997). The southern Rocky Mountain population of boreal toads is likely distinct from other populations (A. Goebel unpubl. data). There are approximately 206 historical localities for the southern Rocky Mountain boreal toad in Colorado. Presently, only three to four healthy populations remain, comprised of less than 20 high priority breeding sites (Steve Corn, pers. comm.; Lauren Livo, pers. comm.) Populations have declined precipitously or disappeared over the past 20 years and continue to do so (Goettl 1997). The reasons for the decline are unknown and the factors important to the perseverance of this species are not well understood (Pague et al. 1997). The southern Rocky Mountain boreal toad is currently a candidate for federal listing, a state endangered and U.S. Forest Service sensitive species.

**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

Anthropogenic activities in area may be detrimental to this occurrence. Hydrological imports upstream may have significant impacts on the element. Hydrological processes originating outside of the planning boundary, including water quality, quantity, and timing, must be managed to maintain population viability.

### 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>
24850	<i>Salix planifolia</i> / <i>Carex aquatilis</i> Shrubland	Subalpine Riparian Willow Carr	G5	S4	Yes
24850	<i>Salix planifolia</i> / <i>Carex aquatilis</i> Shrubland	Subalpine Riparian Willow Carr	G5	S4	Yes
24836	<i>Salix planifolia</i> / <i>Caltha leptosepala</i> Shrubland	Subalpine Riparian Willow Carr	G4	S4	Yes
24805	<i>Salix planifolia</i> / <i>Calamagrostis canadensis</i> Shrubland	Subalpine Riparian Willow Carr	G4	S2S3	No

## REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
165258	Culver, D.R. 1997. Colorado Natural Heritage Program Wetland Assessments for the 1997 Summit County Wetlands Inventory.

## ADDITIONAL TOPICS

### Additional Topics

No Data

## VERSION

**Version Date** 04/04/1996

**Version Author** Culver, D.R.

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