

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Mule Mountain

Site Code S.USCOHP*4589

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 74 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 371554N
State Colorado Longitude 1072125W

Quad Code Quad Name
37107-C3 Devil Mountain

County
Archuleta (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name
14080102 Piedra

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	6,940.00 Feet	2,115.00 Meters
Maximum Elevation	8,600.00 Feet	2,621.00 Meters

Site Description

The Mule Mountain PCA encompasses a cliff face containing a Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus anatum*) eyrie. The eyrie rests about 270 feet up a south facing granite cliff with a 350 foot face that is surrounded by a ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) forest. The eyrie is located within the San Juan National Forest and the lowland beneath the base of the cliff consists of riparian areas associated with the Piedra River. The river is located less than one half mile east of the eyrie and one half mile north of the eyrie is Heflin Creek, a tributary of the Piedra River.

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 06/01/1996
Designer Loar, A.M. and C.C. Fleming

Boundary Justification

The planning boundary includes the known Peregrine Falcon eyrie and a buffer to protect the ecological integrity of the canyon. Note that feeding areas extend far outside of the PCA boundaries, warranting landscape management that is compatible with the long-term viability of the PCA.

Primary Area 771.83 Acres 312.35 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B5: General Biodiversity Interest

Biodiversity Significance Comments

This PCA contains a good (B-ranked) occurrence of a globally vulnerable (G4T3) subspecies that is vulnerable (S3) in Colorado. Peregrine Falcons were markedly reduced in numbers by pesticide and PCB poisoning during the 1950s through the mid-1970s. This poisoning resulted in extirpation of the species from large areas of its former range, particularly along the eastern coast of the United States. Currently the Peregrine Falcon is recovering throughout much of its range (USFWS 1999). In the western region of the United States there were an estimated 250 to 350 breeding site occurrences in 1973, but these dropped to approximately 200 by 1983. However, in 1998, there were at least 535 breeding pairs in the western region.

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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>
21725	<i>Falco peregrinus anatum</i>	American Peregrine Falcon	G4T4	S2B	Yes

REFERENCES

Reference ID Full Citation

- No Data

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date 05/15/1997

Version Author Fleming, C.C.

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