

# Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Piedra River Trail

Site Code S.USCOHP\*23164

## IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 470 Site Class PCA  
Site Alias None

## Network of Conservation Areas (NCA)

NCA Site ID NCA Site Code NCA Site Name  
2467 S.USCOHP\*27036 Pagosa Springs

## LOCATORS

Nation United States Latitude 372523N  
State Colorado Longitude 1071153W

Quad Code Quad Name  
37107-D2 Oakbrush Ridge

County  
Archuleta (CO)  
Hinsdale (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name  
14080102 Piedra

## SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation 7,600.00 Feet 2,316.00 Meters  
Maximum Elevation 7,800.00 Feet 2,377.00 Meters

### Site Description

The site is the steep east-facing slope of a beautiful canyon in a lower montane mixed conifer forest, with many ferns and mosses. *Pseudotsuga menziesii* and *Picea pungens* are dominant on lower slopes, with lesser amounts of *Populus tremuloides* and *Abies concolor*. Understory species include *Toxicodendron rydbergii*, *Thalictrum fendleri*, *Rosa woodsii*, *Quercus gambellii*, *Amelanchier utahensis*, *Mahonia repens*, *Elymus trachycaulis*, *Antennaria marginata*, *Heterotheca villosa*, *Pteridium aquilinum* var. *pubescens*, *Maianthemum stellatum*, *Paxistima myrsinites*, mosses and lichens. *Pinus ponderosa* forest occupies the upper elevations. Cliffs and large boulders of the cool canyon support a high diversity of ferns, including *Asplenium septentrionale*, *Woodsia scopulina*, *Woodsia neomexicana*, *Cystopteris fragilis*, *Asplenium trichomanes*, *Polypodium saximontanum*, and *Dryopteris felix-mas*. A popular hiking trail begins across from the Upper Piedra campground and follows the river downstream. A second trail leads uphill to ice caves.

### Key Environmental Factors

No Data

### Climate Description

No Data

### Land Use History

Recreation.

### Cultural Features

No Data

## SITE DESIGN

Site Map Y - Yes Mapped Date 10/16/2005  
Designer Lyon, M.J.

### Boundary Justification

The boundary encompasses the locations of three rare ferns and unsurveyed potential habitat.

Primary Area 247.99 Acres 100.36 Hectares

## SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

### Biodiversity Significance Comments

The site supports an excellent (A-ranked) occurrence of a globally vulnerable (G3?/S3?) fern, Rocky Mountain polypody (*Polypodium saximontanum*), a good (B-ranked) occurrence of a state rare (G4?/S2) fern, New Mexico cliff fern (*Woodsia neomexicana*), and a fair (C-ranked) occurrence of a state rare

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(G5/S1S2) fern, western polypody (*Polypodium hesperium*).

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>
21434	<i>Polypodium saximontanum</i>		G3?	S3?	Yes
24118	<i>Polypodium hesperium</i>	western polypody	G5	S1S2	No
23381	<i>Woodsia neomexicana</i>	New Mexico cliff fern	G4?	S2	No

### REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
166839	Lyon, P. 2001. Colorado Natural Heritage Program Field Surveys.
194256	Lyon, P. and J. Hanson. 2006. Final Report: 2005 Rare Plant Survey of San Juan Public Lands, Colorado. Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Fort Collins, CO.

### ADDITIONAL TOPICS

## Additional Topics

Original site design by Lyon, M.J. 2002-02-15.

### VERSION

Version Date 10/16/2005

Version Author Lyon, M.J.

### Disclaimer

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