

# Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Poncha Park

Site Code S.USCOHP\*25795

## IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 2269 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 383836N  
State Colorado Longitude 1054402W

Quad Code Quad Name  
38105-F6 Black Mountain

County  
Fremont (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name  
11020001 Arkansas Headwaters

## SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	9,420.00 Feet	2,871.22 Meters
Maximum Elevation	9,475.00 Feet	2,887.98 Meters

### Site Description

Poncha Park contains a small, isolated playa that is perched on a hill at the southern extent of South Park. It is embedded within a grassland matrix that blankets miles of rolling hills. Amidst the grassland dominated by Arizona fescue (*Festuca arizonica*), and slimstem muhly grass (*Muhlenbergia filiculmis*) are small patches of ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) and quaking aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) forest, fragments of larger patches that occur on steeper slopes of the higher hills in the vicinity. This playa has two concentric zones of vegetation. The innermost zone is strongly dominated by common spikerush (*Eleocharis palustris*) with beaked spikerush (*E. parvula*) subdominant. The outermost zone is dominated by western wheatgrass (*Pascopyrum smithii*).

### Key Environmental Factors

Playa; small closed basin.

### Climate Description

No Data

### Land Use History

No Data

### Cultural Features

No Data

## SITE DESIGN

Site Map Y - Yes Mapped Date 01/02/2006

Designer Neid, S.L.

### Boundary Justification

Boundary is drawn along adjacent ridgelines, which includes the watershed boundary to the east, for immediate watershed protection.

Primary Area 146.45 Acres 59.26 Hectares

## SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B2: Very High Biodiversity Significance

### Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site encompasses a playa, a unique landscape feature in this area. It contains an excellent (A-ranked) occurrence of a globally critically imperiled (G1/S1) natural community, western wheatgrass - spikerush species (*Pascopyrum smithii* - *Eleocharis* spp.) herbaceous vegetation. This plant community spans 4 states and is potentially more common than the global rank indicates.

Other Values Rank No Data

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## 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

Investigate seasonal hydrology of the playa and its use by wildlife.

## 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>
24718	<i>Pascopyrum smithii</i> - <i>Eleocharis</i> spp. Herbaceous Vegetation	Playa Grassland	G1	S1	Yes

## REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
193618	Neid, S.L. 2006. Final Report: Survey of Critical Wetlands and Riparian Areas in Fremont County, Colorado. Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Fort Collins, CO.

## ADDITIONAL TOPICS

## Additional Topics

No Data

## VERSION

<b>Version Date</b>	01/02/2006
<b>Version Author</b>	Neid, S.L.

## Disclaimer

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