

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Rattlesnake Canyon

Site Code S.USCOHP*6178

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 1671 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>
883	S.USWRO1*1045	Colorado National Monument

LOCATORS

Nation United States Latitude 390822N
State Colorado Longitude 1085049W

<u>Quad Code</u>	<u>Quad Name</u>
39108-A7	Battleship Rock
39108-B7	Mack

County
Mesa (CO)

<u>Watershed Code</u>	<u>Watershed Name</u>
14010005	Colorado headwaters-Plateau

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	4,600.00 Feet	1,402.00 Meters
Maximum Elevation	7,090.00 Feet	2,161.00 Meters

Site Description

This spectacular red rock canyon runs north to the Colorado River. It is rimmed by Entrada sandstone, and contains the second largest concentration of natural arches in the country. It is a popular destination for hikers and bicyclists. Access to the canyon is by foot from a trailhead near the Colorado River, or by a four-wheel drive road from Black Ridge. Boaters and rafters on the Colorado River may access the mouth of the canyon from the river. The area is a Wilderness Study Area, and is recommended as wilderness by the Colorado Environmental Coalition as well as the BLM. The area is in nearly pristine condition. The mesas above the canyon have the best example of the Utah juniper / Salina wildrye community seen in Mesa County. The riparian zone along the canyon bottom has scattered plains cottonwood, box elder, willow and birch. The gentle slopes above have a mix of pinon, juniper, mountain mahogany, cliffrose and sagebrush, with a well developed cryptogamic crust on the soil surface. Just below the canyon rim, in small pockets of soil in the Entrada sandstone, is the largest population in Colorado of the rare plant canyonlands lomatium (*Aletes latilobus*). Fauna of the canyon include deer, mountain lion, bighorn sheep, Bald and Golden Eagles.

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 12/01/1996
Designer Lyon, M.J.

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the entire canyon, and part of the mesa above, to incorporate the *Juniperus osteosperma* / *Leymus salinus* community. A large area of unexplored potential habitat for *Aletes latilobus* exists in the canyon.

Primary Area 2,284.13 Acres 924.36 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B1: Outstanding Biodiversity Significance

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Biodiversity Significance Comments

The site supports an excellent (A-ranked) occurrence of globally critically imperiled (G1/S1) plant species, canyonlands lomatium (*Aletes latilobus*). This is the largest population of this species 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>
18676	<i>Aletes latilobus</i>	Canyonlands aletes	G1	S1	Yes
21063	<i>Oreocarya osterhoutii</i>	Osterhout cat's-eye	G2G3	S2	No
40542	<i>Juniperus osteosperma</i> / <i>Leymus salinus</i> spp. <i>salinus</i> Wooded Herbaceous Vegetation	Mesic Western Slope Pinyon-Juniper Woodlands	G3	S3	No

REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
173289	Lyon, P., C. Pague, R. Rondeau, L. Renner, C. Slater, and C. Richard. 1996. Final Report: Natural Heritage Inventory of Mesa County, Colorado. Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Fort Collins, CO.
193477	USDI Bureau of Land Management. 1989. Final Wilderness Environmental Impact Statement. Grand Junction District, Grand Junction, CO.

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date 12/01/1996

Version Author Lyon, M.J.

Disclaimer

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