

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Smith Gulch

Site Code S.USCOHP*10086

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 562 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 392157N
State Colorado Longitude 1071507W

<u>Quad Code</u>	<u>Quad Name</u>
39107-D3	Cattle Creek
39107-D2	Carbondale
39107-C2	Mount Sopris
39107-C3	Stony Ridge

County

Garfield (CO)
Pitkin (CO)

<u>Watershed Code</u>	<u>Watershed Name</u>
14010004	Roaring Fork

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	-	Feet	-	Meters
Maximum Elevation	-	Feet	-	Meters

Site Description

Edgerton Creek, Barbers Gulch and Smith Gulch are intermittent drainages that flow to the Crystal River just above its confluence with the Roaring Fork River. This area is characterized by a combination of pinyon-juniper (*Pinus edulis*-*Juniperus osteosperma*) woodlands, oak (*Quercus gambelii*) shrublands, and sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*) shrublands. The sagebrush shrublands are known to support a globally-vulnerable plant species, Harrington's beardtongue (*Penstemon harringtonii*). Osterhout's beardtongue (*Penstemon osterhoutii*) is also found in this PCA. This species is common, though only known from Colorado. This PCA includes about 3,200 acres over an elevation range of about 7000 to 8000 feet.

Key Environmental Factors

No Data

Climate Description

No Data

Land Use History

No Data

Cultural Features

No Data

SITE DESIGN

Site Map Y - Yes Mapped Date 05/04/1999
Designer Spackman, S.C.

Boundary Justification

The PCA boundary includes the occurrences of Harrington's beardtongue and additional potential habitat to allow for migration of the rare plants over time.

Primary Area 3,245.77 Acres 1,313.52 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

Harrington's beardtongue (*Penstemon harringtonii*) is a globally-vulnerable plant species which is restricted to Colorado and is found almost exclusively in sagebrush habitat. This species is known globally from 38

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locations, all of which are centered around Edwards, in Eagle County. In general, Harrington's beardtongue and its habitat are threatened by residential development. These threats in addition to its restricted range create an urgency for protection. Harrington's beardtongue populations are known to fluctuate in population numbers from year to year. Therefore, this specific location may be a higher priority than the current information reflects. The Smith Gulch PCA includes two scattered occurrences for this species which are in fair to good condition.

Other Values Rank No Data

Other Values Comments

No Data

LAND MANAGEMENT ISSUES

Land Use Comments

The occurrence itself seems to be only on the roadside. The adjacent land is being grazed and has been planted with hay grasses in some areas.

Natural Hazard Comments

No Data

Exotics Comments

Hay grasses are common.

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>
19662	<i>Penstemon harringtonii</i>	Harrington beardtongue	G3	S3	No
19662	<i>Penstemon harringtonii</i>	Harrington beardtongue	G3	S3	Yes
19662	<i>Penstemon harringtonii</i>	Harrington beardtongue	G3	S3	No
19662	<i>Penstemon harringtonii</i>	Harrington beardtongue	G3	S3	No
19662	<i>Penstemon harringtonii</i>	Harrington beardtongue	G3	S3	No
19662	<i>Penstemon harringtonii</i>	Harrington beardtongue	G3	S3	No

REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
-	No Data

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date	05/04/1999
Version Author	Spackman, S.C.

Disclaimer

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