

# Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Spring Creek at Ignacio

Site Code S.USCOHP\*113

## IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 1827 Site Class PCA  
Site Alias Spring Creek

## 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 370904N  
State Colorado Longitude 1073058W

## Quad Code Quad Name

37107-B5 Bayfield  
37107-B4 Pargin Mountain

## County

La Plata (CO)

## Watershed Code Watershed Name

14080101 Upper San Juan

## SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	6,700.00 Feet	2,042.00 Meters
Maximum Elevation	7,200.00 Feet	2,195.00 Meters

## Site Description

Spring Creek, a tributary of Los Pinos River, flows through an area of gentle clay hills clothed with Utah juniper (*Juniperus osteosperma*) and mixed shrubs. The site encompasses parts of Zabel Canyon and Salt Canyon, which join to form Spring Creek. Typical plant species in the area are sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata* ssp. *tridentata*), bitterbrush (*Purshia tridentata*), Gambel oak (*Quercus gambelii*), cliff fendlerbush (*Fendlera rupicola*) and galleta (*Hilaria jamesii*). Aztec milkvetch (*Astragalus proximus*) was found at the site in 1994 in disturbed or eroding soil, following an unusually wet winter. No milkvetch plants were found in 2003; however, they may be dormant and reappear in a wetter year. A survey of Archuleta County in 2001 yielded the occurrence of Pagosa phlox (*Phlox caryophylla*), while the Abajo beardtongue (*Penstemon lentus*) was located in 2003. All three species share similar habitat requirements. In addition to the three rare plants that have been documented, this site also contains suitable habitat for Townsend's Easter daisy (*Townsendia incana*), Gray's Easter daisy (*Townsendia glabella*) and Missouri milkvetch (*Astragalus missouriensis*), two more rare species that failed to appear in known sites in 2003.

## 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 01/30/2004  
Designer Lyon, M.J.

## Boundary Justification

The site boundary includes the two element occurrences and surrounding potential habitat, which also serves as a buffer to limit direct disturbance.

Primary Area 1,135.25 Acres 459.42 Hectares

## SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B5: General Biodiversity Interest

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## Biodiversity Significance Comments

The site was drawn for two rare plant occurrences: an excellent to good (AB) occurrence of Aztec milkvetch (*Astragalus proximus*), a plant that is apparently secure globally (G4), but rare (S2) in Colorado; and a good (B-ranked) occurrence of Pagosa phlox, also globally secure but rare 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>
19324	<i>Astragalus proximus</i>	Aztec milkvetch	G4	S2	Yes
18375	<i>Phlox caryophylla</i>	Pagosa phlox	G4	S3	Yes

### REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
184581	Lyon, P. 2003. Colorado Natural Heritage Program La Plata County Biological Assessment.

### ADDITIONAL TOPICS

## Additional Topics

No Data

### VERSION

Version Date 01/30/2004  
Version Author Lyon, M.J.

### Disclaimer

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