

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Sulphur Gulch

Site Code S.USCOHP*10448

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 312 Site Class PCA
Site Alias Sulphur Gulch East

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 391635N
State Colorado Longitude 1081619W

Quad Code Quad Name
39108-C3 Wagon Track Ridge

County
Mesa (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name
14010005 Colorado headwaters-Plateau

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	4,920.00	Feet	1,500.00	Meters
Maximum Elevation	5,060.00	Feet	1,542.00	Meters

Site Description

Sulphur Gulch is a steep sided canyon carved within the Utah juniper (*Juniperus osteosperma*) and big sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata tridentata*) dominated uplands. The canyon slopes also support scattered ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*). Within the gulch a spring supports a marsh community of threesquare bulrush (*Schoenoplectus pungens*). The wetland is large relative to others found at similarly low elevations in Mesa County. A thick crust of alkaline salts coats the soils in the vicinity of the springs and seeps. In addition to threesquare bulrush, the sandy alkaline floodplain soils support saltgrass (*Distichlis spicata*), alkali sacaton (*Sporobolus airoides*), seepwillow (*Baccharis salicina*), and greasewood (*Sarcobatus vermiculatus*). Tadpoles were observed within the channel and adult damselflies and dragonflies were abundant. The proposed Sulphur Gulch Reservoir would inundate the wetland.

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 06/02/2002
Designer Doyle, G.A.

Boundary Justification

The boundary is drawn to include the spring-fed wetland community and a portion of the gulch both upstream and downstream from the spring. The boundary represents a preliminary estimate of the area needed to maintain local hydrological conditions. However, the spring is likely associated with a regional or large-scale aquifer. The site boundary likely does not account for all those areas in which recharge to the aquifer occurs. This boundary indicates the minimum area that should be considered for any conservation management plan.

Primary Area 145.45 Acres 58.86 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

The site supports a good occurrence (B-ranked) of a globally vulnerable (G3G4/S3) wetland plant

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Name Sulphur Gulch
community, Schoenoplectus pungens.

Site Code S.USCOHP*10448

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

Scattered tamarisk.

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>
18654	<i>Schoenoplectus pungens</i> Herbaceous Vegetation	Bulrush	G3G4	S3	Yes

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.
183498	Rocchio J., G. Doyle, D. Culver. 2002. Final Report: Survey of Critical Wetlands and Riparian Areas in Mesa County, Colorado. Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Fort Collins, CO.

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

Original site design by Lyon, M.J. 1996-01-01.

VERSION

Version Date 06/02/2002

Version Author Doyle, G.A.

Disclaimer

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