

# Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name The Crown

Site Code S.USCOHP\*10232

## IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 18 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 392117N  
State Colorado Longitude 1070734W

<u>Quad Code</u>	<u>Quad Name</u>
39107-C2	Mount Sopris
39107-D2	Carbondale
39107-D1	Leon
39107-C1	Basalt

### County

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

## SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	6,500.00 Feet	1,981.20 Meters
Maximum Elevation	8,800.00 Feet	2,682.24 Meters

### Site Description

The Crown is bound by Prince Creek to the west, West Sopris Creek to the east, and the Roaring Fork River to the north. The site ranges in elevation from about 6,500 feet along the Roaring Fork River, to 8,800 feet at the summit of The Crown. Shadowed by Mount Sopris at 12,953 feet, this site is spectacular. It is characterized by pinon - juniper (*Pinus edulis* - *Juniperus* sp.) woodlands, oak (*Quercus gambelii*), and sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*) shrublands. Within the large areas of oak shrublands, there is an area which is dominated by oak and snowberry (*Symphoricarpos oreophilus*), which is an uncommon plant association in Colorado. The sagebrush dominated areas are known to support the globally rare Harrington's beardtongue (*Penstemon harringtonii*), although a low total number of individuals have been documented for this location. The west-facing slopes from The Crown to Prince Creek are steep with intermittent creeks. In contrast, the slopes down to West Sopris Creek and are gentle rolling hills. Approximately 7,000 acres are included. This large area is in good overall condition, however scattered roads and trails used by recreationists are creating erosion and weed problems.

### 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 05/05/1999  
Designer Spackman, S.C.

### Boundary Justification

This site includes the mosaic of community types in which the four element occurrences are found. The surrounding high quality habitat is included to act as a buffer to direct disturbances, such as trampling and indirect disturbances, such as unnatural erosion. The site also provides additional suitable habitat for the elements to establish in over time.

Primary Area	16,385.73 Acres	6,631.10 Hectares
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## SITE SIGNIFICANCE

**Biodiversity Significance Rank** B2: Very High Biodiversity Significance

### Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site contains excellent and good occurrences of a plant species which is vulnerable on a global scale. Harrington's beardtongue (*Penstemon harringtonii*) is a globally rare (G3) plant species which is endemic to Colorado and is found almost exclusively in sagebrush habitat. In general, Harrington's beardtongue and its habitat are highly threatened due to residential and recreational 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. Although a low total number of individuals have been documented within this site, it may be a higher priority than the current information reflects.

**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>State Scientific Name</u>	<u>State Common Name</u>	<u>Global Rank</u>	<u>State Rank</u>	<u>Driving Site Rank</u>
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	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
24791	<i>Quercus gambelii</i> / <i>Symphoricarpos oreophilus</i> Shrubland	Mixed Mountain Shrublands	G5	S3S4	No
24685	<i>Quercus gambelii</i> - <i>Cercocarpus montanus</i> / ( <i>Carex geyeri</i> ) Shrubland	Mixed Mountain Shrublands	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

<b>Version Date</b>	05/05/1999
<b>Version Author</b>	Spackman, S.C.

## Disclaimer

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