

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Uncompahgre Site

Site Code S.USWRO1*223

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 1726 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 380334N
State Colorado Longitude 1072649W

Quad Code Quad Name
38107-A4 Uncompahgre Peak

County
Hinsdale (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name
14020002 Upper Gunnison

SITE DESCRIPTION

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

Site Description

This site encompasses a large alpine bowl on the southeast slopes of Uncompahgre Peak. The area is comprised of alpine tundra, dissected by the headwaters of Nellie Creek and extensive talus fields. The topography is diverse, with numerous small hills, ridges, terraces, ravines, and potholes. The tundra vegetation appears to be typical of the area. Prostrate willow species (*Salix nivalis* and *S. arctica*) dominate large areas on coarse soils, while graminoids such as *Kobresia* sp. and *Festuca* sp. cover areas with more developed soils. Large late-season snow fields are found in the upper reaches of the bowl, providing perennial water sources for Nellie Creek, and providing habitat for some of the imperiled butterflies present here.

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 11/16/1995
Designer Ellingson, A.R.

Boundary Justification

The boundary is intended to adequately protect areas currently occupied by *B. improba acrocneuma* as well as adjacent areas of suitable habitat which have potential for colonization. The long-term persistence of *B. improba acrocneuma* populations will be favored by the protection of an area larger than that which is occupied by the colonies in any one year. Observations of *B. improba acrocneuma* on habitat patches outside of known colony areas (Brussard and Britten 1989, Gall 1984) suggest that dispersal, and potentially colonization, may be a process important to the population's viability. Habitat heterogeneity (a habitat component enhanced by the large protected area recommended here) may also be related to long-term persistence in butterflies (Ehrlich and Murphy 1987).

Primary Area 2,122.65 Acres 859.01 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B2: Very High Biodiversity Significance

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Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site is primarily designated for the globally critically imperiled (G5T1/S1) Uncompahgre fritillary (*Boloria improba acrocneuma*) butterfly, a species endemic to alpine refugia in the San Juan Mountains of southwestern Colorado. This species is known from seven locations containing 14 colonies. Two good quality colonies are contained in this site, one of which is the noted type locality. While both colonies have shown wide variations in yearly populations, both have been increasing in numbers since 1991. Two other state imperiled alpine butterflies are also contained within this site, furthering the hypothesis that this area is an alpine refuge. Both the white-veined arctic butterfly (*Oeneis bore*) and the Theano alpine butterfly (*Erebia pawlowskii*) are known from the site.

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>
18698	<i>Boloria improba acrocneuma</i>	Uncompahgre Fritillary	G5T1	S1	Yes
20626	<i>Oeneis bore</i>	White-veined Arctic	G5	S3	No
18698	<i>Boloria improba acrocneuma</i>	Uncompahgre Fritillary	G5T1	S1	No
18698	<i>Boloria improba acrocneuma</i>	Uncompahgre Fritillary	G5T1	S1	No
17388	<i>Erebia pawlowskii</i>	Theano Alpine	G5	S3	No

REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
168096	Brussard, P. F. and H. Britten. 1989. The Status of the Uncompahgre Fritillary BOLORIA ACROCNEMA. Final Report. Department of Biology, Montana State University, Bozeman, Montana.
158500	Gall, L.F. 1984. Population structure and recommendations for conservation of the narrowly endemic alpine butterfly BOLORIA ACROCNEMA (Lepidoptera:Nymphalidae). Biological Conservation 2:(1984) 111-138.

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date 11/16/1995
Version Author Ellingson, A.R.

Disclaimer

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