

# Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Young Gulch and Elkhorn Creek

Site Code S.USCOHP\*25361

## IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 2194 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 404348N  
State Colorado Longitude 1053242W

<u>Quad Code</u>	<u>Quad Name</u>
40105-G4	Haystack Gulch
40105-E4	Crystal Mountain
40105-G5	Red Feather Lakes
40105-F3	Poudre Park
40105-F5	Rustic
40105-F4	Big Narrows
40105-E3	Buckhorn Mountain

## County

Larimer (CO)

<u>Watershed Code</u>	<u>Watershed Name</u>
10190007	Cache La Poudre

## SITE DESCRIPTION

<b>Minimum Elevation</b>	5,800.00	<b>Feet</b>	1,767.84	<b>Meters</b>
<b>Maximum Elevation</b>	8,200.00	<b>Feet</b>	2,499.36	<b>Meters</b>

## Site Description

Elkhorn Creek and Young Gulch are small streams tributary to the Cache la Poudre River. The upper reaches are typified by steep slopes and canyons with ponderosa pine dominating the sparse riparian vegetation, whereas the lower reaches near the confluence with the Cache la Poudre are more open in topography with narrowleaf cottonwood (*Populus angustifolia*), coyote willow (*Salix exigua*), Drummond's willow (*S. drummondiana*), Rocky Mountain maple (*Acer glabrum*), chokecherry (*Padus virginiana*), and alder (*Alnus incana*) occurring along the stream margins. The substrate consists of pebble, cobble, and areas of bedrock. In summer and fall, sections of both streams become intermittent (Nelson and Kondratieff 1988). Elkhorn Creek and Young Gulch are the only known locations for the small winter stonefly *Capnia arapahoe*. Other species of winter stoneflies collected in association with *C. arapahoe* include *C. confusa*, *C. decepta*, *C. gracilaria*, *Capnura wanica*, *Zapada cinctipes*, and *Prostoia besametsa* (Nelson and Kondratieff 1988). Numerous visits to the Young Gulch locality have failed to yield any additional specimens of *Capnia arapahoe* (Nelson and Kondratieff 1988, pers. comm. B.C. Kondratieff 2005). Another rare species of stonefly, *Suwallia wardi*, has been documented on a tributary to Elkhorn Creek on the Ben Delatour Boy Scout Ranch.

## 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 01/28/2005  
Designer Doyle, G.A.

## Boundary Justification

The boundary encompasses the portion of the creeks known to support *Capnia arapahoe* and portions of the

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upstream watersheds. The full areal extent of the stonefly population is not known at this time. *Capnia arapahoe* was collected at the confluence of the creeks with the Cache la Poudre River. The site could be expanded to include a greater proportion of the upstream watershed to ensure maintenance of the ecological and hydrological processes as these are necessary for the viability of the occurrence.

Primary Area 4,979.44 Acres 2,015.12 Hectares

## SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B1: Outstanding Biodiversity Significance

### Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site contains the only known occurrences of a globally critically imperiled (G1/S1) stonefly (*Capnia arapahoe*), last observed in 1987. It also includes an occurrence of a globally vulnerable (G3/S2) stonefly (*Suwallia wardi*).

Other Values Rank No Data

### Other Values Comments

Another species of stonefly, *Suwallia wardi* (G3/S2), has been documented on a tributary to Elkhorn Creek on the Ben Delatour Boy Scout Ranch.

## LAND MANAGEMENT ISSUES

### Land Use Comments

No Data

### Natural Hazard Comments

No Data

### Exotics Comments

No Data

### Offsite

No Data

### Information Needs

Current surveys needed to verify stonefly population.

## ASSOCIATED ELEMENTS OF BIODIVERSITY

<u>Element</u>			<u>Global Rank</u>	<u>State Rank</u>	<u>Driving Site Rank</u>
<u>State ID</u>	<u>State Scientific Name</u>	<u>State Common Name</u>			
22557	<i>Capnia arapahoe</i>	A Stonefly	G1	S1	Yes
21137	<i>Suwallia wardi</i>	A Stonefly	G3	S2	No
22557	<i>Capnia arapahoe</i>	A Stonefly	G1	S1	Yes

## REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
192692	Doyle, G.A., S.L. Neid and R.J. Rondeau. 2005. Final Report: Survey of Critical Biological Resources, Larimer County, Colorado. Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Fort Collins, CO.
192788	Kondratieff, B.C. 2005. Personal communication to Georgia Doyle. Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO.
192670	Nelson, C.R. and B.C. Kondratieff. 1988. A new species of <i>Capnia</i> (Plecoptera: Capniidae) from the Rocky Mountains of Colorado. Entomological News 99(2):77-80.

## ADDITIONAL TOPICS

### Additional Topics

No Data

## VERSION

Version Date 01/28/2005

Version Author Doyle, G.A.

## Disclaimer

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