

# Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Bald Mountain

Site Code S.USCOHP\*27378

## IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 2519 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 400123N  
State Colorado Longitude 1052707W

### Quad Code Quad Name

40105-A4 Gold Hill

### County

Boulder (CO)

### Watershed Code Watershed Name

10190005 St. Vrain

## SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	7,780.00 Feet	2,371.34 Meters
Maximum Elevation	9,147.00 Feet	2,788.01 Meters

### Site Description

This site encompasses Bald Mountain, a 9,147 ft ( 2,788 m), east-west trending ridgeline and series of hills composed of metamorphic gneiss bedrock with intrusions of volcanic rock. It is in the heart of a major historical mining district in Boulder County, between Sunset and Sugarloaf. The vegetation of Bald Mountain is a mosaic of pine forest interspersed with large meadows. The site is in a transition zone between a large ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) ecological system downslope to the east and a lodgepole pine (*Pinus contorta*) forest uphill to the west. North-facing slopes have dense-canopied mixed conifer forest with lodgepole pine, Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), and ponderosa pine. South-facing slopes tend to have more open canopies of ponderosa pine and pockets of aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) with more extensive meadows. The extensive meadows have a diverse mix of montane grassland species including mountain muhly (*Muhlenbergia montana*) and spike fescue (*Leucopoa kingii*) with lower montane-foothills species like needle-and-thread (*Hesperostipa comata*) and squirreltail (*Elymus elymoides*). The large meadows have very high forb diversity and patches of shrubs throughout with Fendler's ceanothus (*Ceanothus fendleri*) and chokecherry (*Prunus virginiana*) common and abundant in places. Stream valleys on either side of Bald Mountain are deep and narrow with perennial streams. The landscape in this area experienced several catastrophic fires during historical mining activity.

### Key Environmental Factors

Upper montane elevation zone; metamorphic bedrock.

### Climate Description

No Data

### Land Use History

No Data

### Cultural Features

No Data

## SITE DESIGN

Site Map Y - Yes Mapped Date 10/21/2008  
Designer Neid, S.L.

### Boundary Justification

The boundary includes a landscape mosaic of pine woodlands, mixed conifer forest, and grassland meadows that contain the element occurrences and adjacent suitable habitat.

Primary Area	1,020.87 Acres	413.13 Hectares
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## SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B2: Very High Biodiversity Significance

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## Biodiversity Significance Comments

The site supports an excellent to good (AB-ranked) occurrence of the globally critically imperiled (G1G2/S1S2) *Muhlenbergia montana* - *Hesperostipa comata* montane grassland and an excellent to good (AB-ranked) occurrence of the globally vulnerable (G3/S3) *Pinus ponderosa* / *Leucopoa kingii* foothills ponderosa pine savanna.

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 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>			
24730	<i>Muhlenbergia montana</i> - <i>Hesperostipa comata</i> Herbaceous Vegetation	Montane Grasslands	G1G2	S1S2	Yes
24756	<i>Pinus ponderosa</i> / <i>Leucopoa kingii</i> Woodland	Foothills Ponderosa Pine Savannas	G3	S3	No

## REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
195190	Neid, S., J. Lemly, K. Decker and D. Culver. 2009. Final Report: Survey of Critical Biological Resources in Boulder County 2007-2008. Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Fort Collins, CO.

## ADDITIONAL TOPICS

### Additional Topics

No Data

## VERSION

Version Date 10/21/2008

Version Author Neid, S.L.

## Disclaimer

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