

# Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Balsam Lake

Site Code S.USCOHP\*23785

## IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 1122 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 374035N  
State Colorado Longitude 1073618W

<u>Quad Code</u>	<u>Quad Name</u>
37107-F5	Storm King Peak
37107-F6	Snowdon Peak

### County

San Juan (CO)

<u>Watershed Code</u>	<u>Watershed Name</u>
14080104	Animas

## SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	10,500.00 Feet	3,200.00 Meters
Maximum Elevation	11,800.00 Feet	3,597.00 Meters

### Site Description

This forested area around Balsam Lake and along Tenmile Creek supports an unusual plant community of subalpine fir and Carolina tasselrue, within a matrix of the characteristic subalpine fir forest. According to Hogan (1997), the site was "marked by pit and mound topography upon a mix of alluvial and colluvial materials." The areas with Carolina tasselrue appeared to be subject to heavier snow accumulation than surrounding areas. Data were recorded from a plot on a south facing slope, where Engelmann spruce attained a diameter of up to 25 inches, and snags and rotting deadfall were present. Although only small patches of the subalpine fir/Carolina tasselrue community were documented at this site, it is expected to occur in larger areas. It has been noted in extensive stands of several hundred acres in Archuleta County.

### 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 12/13/2002  
Designer Lyon, M.J.

### Boundary Justification

The boundary is drawn to encompass the forested area around Tenmile Creek and Balsam Lake. It is surrounded by rocky alpine tundra that does not support tree growth.

Primary Area	968.25 Acres	391.84 Hectares
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## SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B4: Moderate Biodiversity Significance

### Biodiversity Significance Comments

The site supports an occurrence of subalpine fir/Carolina tasselrue, a plant community that is globally vulnerable (G3) and believed to be rare (S2?) in Colorado. This community occurs in small patches within a matrix of the more common (G5/S5) subalpine forest of subalpine fir, Engelmann spruce and blueberry.

Other Values Rank No Data

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## 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>
24506	<i>Abies lasiocarpa</i> / <i>Trautvetteria carolinensis</i> Forest	Subalpine Fir/Carolina Tasselrue	G3	S2?	Yes
24534	<i>Abies lasiocarpa</i> / <i>Vaccinium myrtillus</i> Forest	Subalpine Forests	G5	S5	No

### REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
163571	Lyon, P. and D. Culver. 2002. Colorado Natural Heritage Program Field Surveys.

### ADDITIONAL TOPICS

## Additional Topics

No Data

### VERSION

Version Date 12/13/2002

Version Author Lyon, M.J.

### Disclaimer

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