

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Banner Peak

Site Code S.USCOHP1*2011

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 1369 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>
1666	S.USCOHP1*1992	South Platte Canyon

LOCATORS

Nation United States Latitude 392509N
State Colorado Longitude 1051717W

Quad Code Quad Name

39105-D3 Pine

County

Jefferson (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name
10190002 Upper South Platte

SITE DESCRIPTION

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

Site Description

This site is one of the most dramatic sites in Jefferson County. The scenery is one of sheer 200' granitic cliffs and boulders surrounded by a dense evergreen forest. The surrounding peaks provide a striking view of the north fork of the South Platte River and portions of the Pike National forest. The vegetation of the area is predominantly a Douglas-fir-ponderosa pine forest with the understory species varying with aspect and openness. The richest areas are those with a more open canopy on gentle east and south-facing slopes. Several species of grasses dominate, including mountain muhly, little bluestem and june grass. The granitic boulders provide microhabitats for rock-loving species. The more mesic of these niches support rich fern, moss, and lichen communities. Banner Peak and the nearby Cathedral Spires are recognized by the Colorado Natural Areas Program as significant geological features for the state. The area has few exotic species and none that are present are invasive. Although the area was apparently logged in the early to mid 1900's, general recovery has occurred and the forest is now composed of several age classes of trees. A pine beetle kill thinned out the forest and these trees were cut and removed by the landowner. A few of the more accessible cliffs are used by rock climbers. Historically the area has been grazed, although there were no signs of recent grazing. In general, the site remains relatively undisturbed and of very high quality.

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 09/12/1994
Designer Pague, C.A.

Boundary Justification

Includes the geological feature and the state-rare plant associations. What are believed to be adequate buffers are included, but these need further verification.

Primary Area 738.36 Acres 298.81 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B4: Moderate Biodiversity Significance

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Biodiversity Significance Comments

A good (B-ranked) occurrence of a state rare (G5S2S3) plant community.

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>
24740	<i>Pinus ponderosa</i> / <i>Muhlenbergia montana</i> Woodland	Foothills Ponderosa Pine Savannas	G4G5	S2S3	Yes

REFERENCES

Reference ID Full Citation

- No Data

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date 09/12/1994

Version Author Pague, C.A.

Disclaimer

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