

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Blackhead Peak

Site Code S.USCOHP*8444

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 929 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 371751N
State Colorado Longitude 1064710W

Quad Code Quad Name
37106-C7 Blackhead Peak

County
Archuleta (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name
14080101 Upper San Juan

SITE DESCRIPTION

| | | |
|-------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Minimum Elevation | 10,200.00 Feet | 3,109.00 Meters |
| Maximum Elevation | 10,600.00 Feet | 3,231.00 Meters |

Site Description

This PCA encompasses a clear cut in a spruce forest. New tree growth is about 3 to 5 feet tall. Moonworts (Botrychiums) were found in moist areas under grasses and forbs. The dominant tree species at the site is Engelmann spruce (*Picea engelmannii*). Understory species include rock jasmine (*Androsace septentrionalis*), Parry's thistle (*Cirsium parryi*), Sierra corydalis (*Corydalis caseana*), fireweed (*Epilobium angustifolium*), wild strawberry (*Fragaria virginiana*), pennycress (*Noccaea montana*), Whipple penstemon (*Penstemon whippleanus*), bracken fern (*Pteridium aquilinum* var. *pubescens*), and Carolina bugbane (*Trautvetteria carolinensis*).

Key Environmental Factors

No Data

Climate Description

No Data

Land Use History

No Data

Cultural Features

No Data

SITE DESIGN

Site Map Y - Yes Mapped Date 02/15/2002
Designer Lyon, M.J.

Boundary Justification

The boundary encompasses the known locations of several species of moonworts. The entire clearcut area has potential habitat for this genus, but only areas surveyed were included in this boundary. Further survey could lead to enlarging the PCA. Moonworts prefer naturally or human disturbed sites; however, trampling, road maintenance, or other continued impacts may threaten the occurrence. The site includes the occurrence and a small buffer to protect against these disturbances and to allow suitable habitat where additional individuals can become established over time.

Primary Area 220.91 Acres 89.40 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B4: Moderate Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

This PCA supports an unranked (E) occurrences of the reflected moonwort (*Botrychium echo*), a globally imperiled (G2) species, as well as the western moonwort (*B. hesperium*) a vulnerable (G3) species, and Mingan moonwort (*B. minganense*) and the northern moonwort (*B. pinnatum*), both state rare (S1) species.

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Blackhead Peak

Site Code S.USCOHP*8444

All occurrences are ranked E, or extant, since several consecutive years' observation are necessary to assign an element occurrence rank for Botrychiums. Photocopies of collections made in 2001 were sent to Dr. Peter Root at the Denver Botanical Garden for identification. He, in turn, sent the sheets to Peter Zika in Seattle, for further confirmation. The species listed below are those confirmed by both botanists.

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

[LYON 2002:] This site has confirmed occurrences of Botrychium echo, an imperiled species (G2), as well as B. hesperium a vulnerable (G3) species, and B. minganense, as state rare (S1) species. All occurrences are ranked E, or extant, since several consecutive years' observation are necessary to assign an element occurrence rank for Botrychiums. Photocopies of collections made in 2001 were sent to Peter Root for identification. He tentatively identified B. minganense, B. echo, and B. hesperium, as well a possible B. pinnatum and B. pallidum. He has sent the sheets to Peter Zika in Seattle for further confirmation. Results of his inspection are pending. Peter Root pointed out that the Nipple Mountain site is just across the divide from the Stunner/Iron Creek site where B. pallidum, a species that is imperiled (G2) and on the Forest Service sensitive list, grows.

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> | | | |
| 20475 | <i>Botrychium echo</i> | reflected moonwort | G3 | S3 | Yes |
| 22785 | <i>Botrychium hesperium</i> | western moonwort | G4 | S2 | No |
| 22682 | <i>Botrychium pinnatum</i> | northern moonwort | G4? | S1 | No |
| 23966 | <i>Botrychium minganense</i> | Mingan's moonwort | G4 | S2 | No |

REFERENCES

| <u>Reference ID</u> | <u>Full Citation</u> |
|---------------------|---|
| 166839 | Lyon, P. 2001. Colorado Natural Heritage Program Field Surveys. |

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

| | |
|-----------------------|------------|
| Version Date | 02/15/2002 |
| Version Author | Lyon, M.J. |

Disclaimer

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Blackhead Peak

Site Code S.USCOHP*8444

These data are a product and property of Colorado State University, Colorado Natural Heritage Program (CNHP). These data are strictly "on loan" and should be considered "works in progress". Data maintained in the Colorado Natural Heritage Program database are an integral part of ongoing research at CSU and reflect the observations of many scientists, institutions and our current state of knowledge. These data are acquired from various sources, with varying levels of accuracy, and are continually being updated and revised. Many areas have never been surveyed and the absence of data in any particular geographic area does not necessarily mean that species or ecological communities of concern are not present. These data should not be regarded as a substitute for on-site surveys required for environmental assessments. Absence of evidence is NOT evidence of absence. Absence of any data does not mean that other resources of special concern do not occur, but rather CNHP files do not currently contain information to document this presence. CNHP is not responsible for whether other, non-CNHP data providers have secured landowner permission for data collected.

These data are provided for non-commercial purposes only. Under no circumstances are data to be distributed in any fashion to outside parties. To ensure accurate application of data, tabular and narrative components must be evaluated in conjunction with spatial components. Failure to do so constitutes a misuse of the data. The Colorado Natural Heritage Program shall have no liability or responsibility to the data users, or any other person or entity with respect to liability, loss, or damage caused or alleged to be caused directly or indirectly by the data, including but not limited to any interruption of service, loss of business, anticipatory profits or indirect, special, or consequential damages resulting from the use of operation of the data. Data users hereby agree to hold CNHP, Colorado State University, and the State of Colorado harmless from any claim, demand, cause of action, loss, damage or expense from or related to data users use of or reliance on the data, regardless of the cause or nature thereof, and even in the event that such cause is attributable to the negligence or misconduct of CNHP.

These data are provided on an as-is basis, as-available basis without warranties of any kind, expressed or implied, INCLUDING (BUT NOT LIMITED TO) WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY, FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE, AND NON-INFRINGEMENT. Although CNHP maintains high standards of data quality control, CNHP, Colorado State University, and the State of Colorado further expressly disclaim any warranty that the data are error-free or current as of the date supplied