

# Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Bridal Veil Falls

Site Code S.USCOHP\*21244

## IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 1578 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 375507N  
State Colorado Longitude 1074608W

### Quad Code Quad Name

37107-H7 Telluride

### County

San Miguel (CO)

### Watershed Code Watershed Name

14030003 San Miguel

## SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	9,800.00 Feet	2,987.00 Meters
Maximum Elevation	10,600.00 Feet	3,231.00 Meters

### Site Description

Bridal Veil Falls is a spectacular waterfall east of the town of Telluride. It features a vertical drop of one hundred feet. A power plant is situated at the top of the falls. An old road leading to Bridal Veil Basin is closed to motorized vehicles, but is extensively used by hikers accessing Blue Lake and Bridal Veil Basin. Black Bear Road, a popular four-wheel drive route, crosses the PCA. One species of grape fern that is globally imperiled and two that are rare in Colorado, were found in disturbed areas on switchbacks of Black Bear Road above Bridal Veil Falls. Two small populations of King's clover were found in this PCA, one along Black Bear Road, and the other on the closed road to Bridal Veil Basin above the falls. Five Black Swifts were identified at Bridal Veil Falls, but no nests of this elusive colonial bird were observed. The speed at which Black Swifts fly makes it difficult to accurately count observed birds and the secretive placement of their nests makes it difficult to verify nesting. This group of swifts probably numbered more than five, and could indeed be nesting at Bridal Veil Falls. This may be the largest number of Black Swifts observed at any one falls in Colorado outside of the nesting population located at Box Canyon Falls in the city of Ouray, Colorado. The falls themselves offer excellent swift habitat. High volumes of water plunge from the cliff face for approximately 100 feet to the ground below. The falls offer a commanding view of the San Miguel River Valley, clear flight paths to the falls, many pockets and ledges for nesting, protection from predators, and moss for nest excavation, all of which are necessary for Black Swifts. The operation of a hydroelectric generating facility by Bridal Veil Power Company probably is inconsequential to the swifts, which are very tolerant of human disturbance.

### 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 03/13/2000

Designer Lyon, M.J.

### Boundary Justification

The PCA includes the locations of the rare plants found in the site, and the falls that are home to the Black Swifts. The site does not provide for the foraging area of the Black Swifts. Further survey of this area could result in extending the locations of the rare plants, and thus the site boundaries.

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Primary Area 62.39 Acres

25.25 Hectares

## SITE SIGNIFICANCE

**Biodiversity Significance Rank** B3: High Biodiversity Significance

### Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site contains a poor occurrence of a plant species which is imperiled on a global scale. This site also contains a good occurrence of a bird species which is vulnerable in Colorado, as well as several occurrences of plant species which are critically imperiled in Colorado. Several of these occurrences were so small that their viability is questionable. However, their presence may indicate that more plants could be found in this habitat with further searching.

**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>
23550	<i>Trifolium kingii</i>	King's clover	G5	S1	No
23518	<i>Cypseloides niger</i>	Black Swift	G4	S3B	No
22152	<i>Cryptogramma stelleri</i>	slender rock-brake	G5	S2	No
19971	<i>Botrychium pallidum</i>	pale moonwort	G3	S2	Yes
23966	<i>Botrychium minganense</i>	Mingan's moonwort	G4	S2	No
23550	<i>Trifolium kingii</i>	King's clover	G5	S1	No
23550	<i>Trifolium kingii</i>	King's clover	G5	S1	No

## REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
-	No Data

## ADDITIONAL TOPICS

### Additional Topics

No Data

## VERSION

<b>Version Date</b>	03/13/2000
<b>Version Author</b>	Lyon, M.J. and J.R. Sovell

## Disclaimer

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