

# Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Burns Gulch

Site Code S.USCOHP\*23965

## IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 1747 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 375359N  
State Colorado Longitude 1073220W

Quad Code Quad Name  
37107-H5 Handies Peak

County  
San Juan (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name  
14080104 Animas

## SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	11,000.00 Feet	3,353.00 Meters
Maximum Elevation	12,600.00 Feet	3,840.00 Meters

### Site Description

Burns Gulch runs from the Continental Divide west to the Animas River. It is bordered by American Basin to the east across the divide, Jones Peak on the northeast and Niagara Peak on the southeast. The site is drawn to include the upper gulch above timberline with alpine vegetation. Rocky tundra is mixed with lush wet meadow areas. Geum rossii and Salix reticulata dominate large areas. Other common alpine species found in the site include Erigeron melanocephalus, Trifolium salictorum, Aquilegia coerulea, Oxyria digyna, Cirsium scopulorum, Smelowskia, Veronica nutans, Salix arctica, and Bistorta bistortoides. Rock outcrops with seeps on the north facing slope below Niagara Peak support a small population of Kotzebue's grass of Parnassus. The area was surveyed for potential Uncompahgre fritillary habitat, and although there was a significant amount of snow willow present, other characteristics led to the conclusion that it was not appropriate habitat. A county road extends to several mines at about 12,000 feet in elevation.

### Key Environmental Factors

No Data

### Climate Description

No Data

### Land Use History

No Data

### Cultural Features

Historic mines.

## SITE DESIGN

Site Map Y - Yes Mapped Date 12/13/2002

Designer Lyon, M.J.

### Boundary Justification

The boundary is drawn to encompass the occurrences of the four draba species and the grass of Parnassus, and extends to the top of the ridge to the south, which provides the moisture from melting snow necessary for their survival. Some surrounding unoccupied area is included to provide space for the populations to expand in the future, and for support of pollinators.

Primary Area 327.88 Acres 132.69 Hectares

## SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B4: Moderate Biodiversity Significance

### Biodiversity Significance Comments

The Burns Gulch site supports small populations of several rare plant species. A fair (C-ranked) occurrence of Draba crassa, a globally vulnerable (G3/S3) species, and a fair (C-ranked) occurrence of Parnassia

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kotzebuei, a state rare (G4/S2) plant, were located in 2002. Previously documented occurrences of *Draba streptobrachia*, *Draba porsildii*, and *Draba fladnizensis*, based on specimens at the University of Colorado herbarium, were not ranked, and their size and quality are unknown. However, the collectors, Emily Hartman and Mary Lou Rottman, remember the populations as being small (personal communication). It is likely that all of these species suffered from the drought during 2002.

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>
19017	<i>Draba fladnizensis</i>	arctic draba	G4	S2S3	No
17281	<i>Draba porsildii</i>	Porsild's whitlow-grass	G3G4	S1	Yes
21274	<i>Draba crassa</i>	thick-leaf whitlow-grass	G3G4	S3	Yes
22774	<i>Parnassia kotzebuei</i>	Kotzebue's grass-of-parnassus	G5	S2	No
21234	<i>Draba streptobrachia</i>	Colorado Divide whitlow-grass	G3	S3	Yes

## REFERENCES

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

## ADDITIONAL TOPICS

## Additional Topics

No Data

## VERSION

Version Date 12/13/2002  
Version Author Lyon, M.J.

## Disclaimer

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