

# Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Chimney Rock

Site Code S.USCOHP\*5954

## IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 1783 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 405606N  
State Colorado Longitude 1054814W

<u>Quad Code</u>	<u>Quad Name</u>
40105-H7	Sand Creek Pass
40105-H6	Eaton Reservoir
40105-G7	Deadman

### County

Larimer (CO)  
Albany (WY)

<u>Watershed Code</u>	<u>Watershed Name</u>
10180010	Upper Laramie

## SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	7,620.00 Feet	2,322.58 Meters
Maximum Elevation	9,020.00 Feet	2,749.30 Meters

### Site Description

The Sand Creek Basin south of Chimney Rock forms a wide-open valley of rolling hills supporting grasslands of native grasses, sagebrush shrublands, and mountain mahogany shrublands interspersed with stands of limber pine (*Pinus flexilis*). In some areas, swales and valleys are dominated by threetip sagebrush (*Artemisia tripartita*) and a variety of grasses including Idaho fescue (*Festuca idahoensis*), bluebunch wheatgrass (*Pseudoroegneria spicata*) and needle-and-thread (*Stipa comata*). The privately owned portions of this "mountain park" have been platted for subdivision and construction of homes has begun on many of the 35-acre lots. Sand and Bull Creeks flow north into Wyoming and Jimmy Creek flows southwest to the Laramie River. The geology is red sandstone with sandy-gravelly soil. Adjacent to the site is Bull Mountain, dominated by stands of aspen and Douglas-fir on steep east to north-facing slopes.

### 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 02/08/2005  
Designer Doyle, G.A.

### Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the grassland and shrubland habitat for Larch-leaf beardtongue (*Penstemon laricifolius* ssp. *exilifolius*). The northern portion of the site is primarily private property subdivided as 35-acre parcels. The private parcels still likely support the species but are not considered a priority for conservation action for this species.

Primary Area	12,631.47 Acres	5,111.79 Hectares
--------------	-----------------	-------------------

## SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

# Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Chimney Rock

Site Code S.USCOHP\*5954

## Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site supports an excellent (A-ranked) occurrence of a globally imperiled (G4T2Q/S2) white flowered subspecies of larch-leaf beardtongue (*Penstemon laricifolius* ssp. *exilifolius*). The subspecies is known primarily from the Laramie River Valley, the Chimney Rock area, and southern Wyoming.

**Other Values Rank** No Data

## Other Values Comments

No Data

## LAND MANAGEMENT ISSUES

### Land Use Comments

Development. Grazing.

### Natural Hazard Comments

No Data

### Exotics Comments

Melilotus is dense in small areas but the penstemon does not seem to occur with it. Bromus inermis and kochia along roads in a few places. Drainages are degraded containing much Canada thistle.

### Offsite

No Data

### Information Needs

Development plans. Only a roadside survey was conducted for the *Penstemon laricifolius* ssp. *exilifolius*. Further survey is needed.

## 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>
20583	<i>Penstemon laricifolius</i> ssp. <i>exilifolius</i>	larch-leaf beardtongue	G4T3Q	S2	Yes

## REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
192692	Doyle, G.A., S.L. Neid and R.J. Rondeau. 2005. Final Report: Survey of Critical Biological Resources, Larimer County, Colorado. Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Fort Collins, CO.
166568	Kettler, S., J. Sanderson, S. Spackman, K. Fayette, C. Pague, D. Clark, and A. Hicks. 1996. Final Report: Significant plant, animal, and wetland resources of Larimer County and their conservation. Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Fort Collins, CO.

## ADDITIONAL TOPICS

### Additional Topics

Original site design by Spackman, S.C. and K.K. Fayette, 1996-10-28.

## VERSION

**Version Date** 02/08/2005

**Version Author** Doyle, G.A.

## Disclaimer

# Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Chimney Rock

Site Code S.USCOHP\*5954

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