

# Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Clear Lake

Site Code S.USCOHP\*26233

## IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 2352 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 374930N  
State Colorado Longitude 1074652W

## Quad Code Quad Name

37107-G7 Ophir

## County

San Juan (CO)

## Watershed Code Watershed Name

14080104 Animas

## SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	11,000.00	Feet	3,352.80	Meters
Maximum Elevation	11,000.00	Feet	3,352.80	Meters

## Site Description

Clear Lake is a glacial tarn located in a high alpine basin above timberline, north of South Mineral Creek. Rocky peaks encircle the west side of the lake and a gently sloping wetland borders Clear Creek on the east end. Altai cottongrass (*Eriophorum altaicum* var. *neogaeum*) occurs in a dense patch on the east side of Clear Lake by the outlet to Clear Creek. The riparian area supports a high diversity of flora. Associated species along the stream include tufted hairgrass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*), bittercress (*Cardamine cordifolia*) and paintbrush (*Castilleja rhexifolia*). Surrounding areas display a great deal of heterogeneity of habitats. The steep hillsides on the east side of the lake are covered with grasses and forbs, including kittentails (*Besseyia ritteriana*), a San Juan endemic which is co-dominant with alpine avens (*Geum rossii*) and western paintbrush (*Castilleja occidentalis*). Associated species include another species of paintbrush (*Castilleja rhexifolia*), orange sneezeweed (*Dugaldia hoopsii*), Whipple's penstemon (*Penstemon whippleanus*) and American bistort (*Bistorta bistortoides*). Drier areas on the east side support snow willow (*Salix reticulata* ssp. *nivalis*), alpine avens (*Geum rossii*), false strawberry (*Sibbaldia procumbens*), alpine sage (*Artemisa scopulorum*), and dwarf bilberry (*Vaccinium cespitosum*). Interspersed with the meadows are talus slopes where Harbour beard-tongue (*Penstemon harbouri*) was found. Its long elastic roots allow it to adjust to the constantly shifting rocks. Other species found in the talus are Colorado columbine (*Aquilegia coerulea*) and Colorado ragwort (*Senecio soldanella*). On the west side of the lake, the slopes are barren and rocky, almost devoid of vegetation. A county road provides access to the site, and it is a popular destination for fishing, sight-seeing and 4-wheel drive enthusiasts.

## 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 10/16/2005  
Designer Lyon, M.J.

## Boundary Justification

The boundary encompasses the Altai cottongrass occurrence and additional potential habitat along Clear Creek.

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Primary Area 77.18 Acres

31.23 Hectares

## SITE SIGNIFICANCE

**Biodiversity Significance Rank** B4: Moderate Biodiversity Significance

### Biodiversity Significance Comments

The site supports a good (B-ranked) occurrence of a globally vulnerable subspecies (G4?T3T4/S3), Altai cottongrass (*Eriophorum altaicum* var. *neogaeum*).

**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>
21874	<i>Eriophorum altaicum</i> var. <i>neogaeum</i>	Altai cottongrass	G4?T3T4	S3	Yes

## REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
194256	Lyon, P. and J. Hanson. 2006. Final Report: 2005 Rare Plant Survey of San Juan Public Lands, Colorado. Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Fort Collins, CO.

## ADDITIONAL TOPICS

### Additional Topics

No Data

## VERSION

**Version Date** 10/16/2005

**Version Author** Lyon, M.J.

## Disclaimer

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