

# Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Cottonwood Creek Hills

Site Code S.USCOHP\*100

## IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 1923 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 375630N  
State Colorado Longitude 1061402W

<u>Quad Code</u>	<u>Quad Name</u>
37106-H2	Swede Corners
37106-H3	Lime Creek

## County

Saguache (CO)

<u>Watershed Code</u>	<u>Watershed Name</u>
13010004	Saguache

## SITE DESCRIPTION

<b>Minimum Elevation</b>	7,800.00	<b>Feet</b>	2,377.00	<b>Meters</b>
<b>Maximum Elevation</b>	8,200.00	<b>Feet</b>	2,499.00	<b>Meters</b>

## Site Description

The Cottonwood Creek Hills site is located approximately 4 miles west of Russell Lakes at the base of the San Juan foothills. This site encompasses a precipitous volcanic outcrop dominated by currant (*Ribes* sp.), needle and thread grass (*Hesperostipa comata*), blue grama (*Bouteloua gracilis*), June grass (*Koeleria micrantha*), and buckwheat (*Eriogonum* sp.). A small population of the rare rock-loving neoparrya (*Neoparrya lithophila*) occurs along a west-facing slope and the adjacent ridge tops. This forb, in the carrot family, is found in soil pockets and in cracks among the rocks, from the cliff base to cliff face. It favors stable areas and does not occur on moving scree. A watchlisted milkvetch (*Astragalus cerussatus*) was found near the ridge top. The Cottonwood Creek drainage bounds the north and west part of this site. The site covers approximately 100 acres and ranges in elevation from 7,800 to 8,200 feet.

## Key Environmental Factors

No Data

## Climate Description

No Data

## Land Use History

No Data

## Cultural Features

No Data

## SITE DESIGN

Site Map P - Partial Mapped Date 02/16/1998  
Designer Rondeau, R.J.

## Boundary Justification

The boundaries drawn include the elements found within the site. Cottonwood Creek Hills site includes the known occurrences of the globally vulnerable plants. In addition, immediate potential habitat for these plants have been included within this boundary.

Primary Area 1,513.18 Acres 612.37 Hectares

## SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

## Biodiversity Significance Comments

The Cottonwood Creek Hills site is drawn for a good occurrence (B ranked) of the globally vulnerable (G3/S3) rock-loving neoparrya (*Aletes lithophilus*). The neoparrya is restricted to south-central Colorado in

# Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Cottonwood Creek Hills  
five counties.

Site Code S.USCOHP\*100

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

Future Research Needs: We know that the rock-loving neoparrya requires soils of volcanic origin and that it thrives on north-facing slopes within the 7 to 9,000 foot elevation band. These criteria are met throughout the San Juan foothills, yet the plant is rarely present. Future studies are needed to help understand what other factors are limiting this plant to these few sites.

### 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>
22904	<i>Aletes lithophilus</i>	rock-loving neoparrya	G3	S3	Yes

### REFERENCES

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

### ADDITIONAL TOPICS

## Additional Topics

No Data

### VERSION

<b>Version Date</b>	02/16/1998
<b>Version Author</b>	Rondeau, R.J.

### Disclaimer

# Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Cottonwood Creek Hills

Site Code S.USCOHP\*100

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