

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Crater Lake

Site Code S.USCOHP*23977

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 616 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 374037N
State Colorado Longitude 1074222W

Quad Code Quad Name
37107-F6 Snowdon Peak

County
San Juan (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name
14080104 Animas

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	11,600.00 Feet	3,536.00 Meters
Maximum Elevation	12,200.00 Feet	3,719.00 Meters

Site Description

This site includes Crater Lake, a beautiful natural lake, and several smaller lakes. It is surrounded by spruce - fir forest and high peaks with tundra vegetation. Rock outcrops on the south side of Crater Lake, below north-facing (late snowmelt) cliffs, are home to *Draba graminea*. Associated species include *Parnassia fimbriata*, *Salix reticulata*, *Cilinia austromontana*, *Cystopteris*, *Silene acaulis*, *Lidia obtusiloba*, *Luzula spicata*, *Geum rossii*, *Claytonia megarhiza*, and *Artemisia scopulorum*. A small un-named lake north of Crater Lake supports a wetland community of *Menyanthes*, and is rimmed by *Carex limosa*. Other species in this wetland are *Carex aquatilis*, *Pedicularis groenlandica*, and *Eleocharis* sp. Extensive wetlands to the east of Crater Lake support *Eriophorum altaicum*. On the slopes leading to the high ridge east of the lake, rock outcrops in areas with late snowmelt support a large population of *Draba graminea*.

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 10/15/2005
Designer Lyon, M.J.

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes high rocky areas habitat for *D. graminea* and *Eriophorum* habitat around ponds.

Primary Area 511.06 Acres 206.82 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B2: Very High Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

The site contains an excellent (A-ranked) occurrence of San Juan whitlow-grass (*Draba graminea*), a globally imperiled (G2/S2) plant. It also supports a fair (C-ranked) occurrence of Colorado Divide whitlow-grass (*Draba streptobrachia*), a globally vulnerable (G3/S3) plant, an excellent (A-ranked) occurrence of Altai cottongrass (*Eriophorum altaicum* var. *neogaeum*), a globally vulnerable (T3T4/S3) subspecies, and a good (B-ranked) occurrence of mud sedge (*Carex limosa*), a species that is rare (G5/S2).

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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	No
17247	<i>Draba graminea</i>	San Juan whitlow-grass	G2	S2	Yes
22458	<i>Carex limosa</i>	mud sedge	G5	S2	No
21234	<i>Draba streptobrachia</i>	Colorado Divide whitlow-grass	G3	S3	No

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

Original site design by Lyon, M.J. 2002-12-13.

VERSION

Version Date 10/15/2005

Version Author Lyon, M.J.

Disclaimer

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