

# Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Cross Mountain Trail

Site Code S.USCOHP\*25372

## IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 2199 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 374935N  
State Colorado Longitude 1075718W

Quad Code Quad Name  
37107-G8 Mount Wilson

### County

San Miguel (CO)  
Dolores (CO)

<u>Watershed Code</u>	<u>Watershed Name</u>
14030003	San Miguel
14030002	Upper Dolores

## SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	11,200.00 Feet	3,413.76 Meters
Maximum Elevation	12,400.00 Feet	3,779.52 Meters

### Site Description

This site, on the border of San Miguel and Dolores Counties, lies on the south-facing, high alpine slopes of Cross Mountain and Lizard Head Peak, an area dominated by alpine tundra and talus fields. A good occurrence of the state-rare Altai chickweed (*Stellaria irrigua*) is found in the very unstable, smaller-diameter (< 1) talus, underlain by thin, dark, coarse-textured soils. The predominant associated species on these talus fields are Harbour beardtongue (*Penstemon harbourii*), thickroot claytonia (*Claytonia megarhiza*) and brittle bladderfern (*Cystopteris fragilis*). The Altai chickweed element occurrence is on the north side of the trail along the edges of talus below the peak at treeline. The surrounding area is spruce-fir (*Picea-Abies*) forest, and alpine tundra. Although the population surveyed was fairly small, there are thousands of acres of potential habitat in the area. An excellent occurrence of House's stitchwort (*Alsinanthe macrantha*), though not fully surveyed, was documented in 2004 in the alpine tundra cushion plant communities along Cross Mountain trail and on south-facing slopes of Lizard Head Peak. Cross Mountain trail is a popular hiking trail, but no damage off-trail was noted, and the species appears to be abundant on the tundra.

### 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 12/08/2004  
Designer Lyon, M.J.

### Boundary Justification

The boundary is drawn to incorporate the area known to be occupied by House's stitchwort (*Alsinanthe macrantha*), as well as adjacent areas that share the same aspect, elevation and vegetation that may be occupied, and that will provide area for expansion and movement of the rare plant populations.

Primary Area	492.68 Acres	199.38 Hectares
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## SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

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## Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site is drawn for an excellent (A-ranked) occurrence of House's stitchwort (*Alsianthe macrantha*), a plant that is both globally vulnerable (G3?) and vulnerable in Colorado (S3). In addition, the site also supports a good (B-ranked) occurrence of the state rare (G4?/S2) Altai chickweed (*Stellaria irrigua*).

**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>
17150	<i>Stellaria irrigua</i>	Altai chickweed	G4?	S2	No
22706	<i>Alsianthe macrantha</i>	House's sandwort	G3	S3	Yes

## REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
192772	Lyon, M.J. 2005. Final Report: Survey of Rare Plants. San Juan Public Lands in Dolores and Montezuma counties, Colorado. Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Fort Collins, CO.

## ADDITIONAL TOPICS

## Additional Topics

No Data

## VERSION

**Version Date** 12/08/2004

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

## Disclaimer

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