

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Cumberland Basin

Site Code S.USCOHP*24590

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 2067 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 372660N
State Colorado Longitude 1080119W

Quad Code Quad Name

37108-D1 La Plata

County

La Plata (CO)

Montezuma (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name

14080104	Animas
14030002	Upper Dolores
14080105	Middle San Juan

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation - Feet - Meters

Maximum Elevation - Feet - Meters

Site Description

The Cumberland Basin site encompasses the headwaters of La Plata Creek. It is bounded on the west by Indian Trail Ridge, which forms the boundary between La Plata and Montezuma counties. On the north and east, it follows the divide between the La Plata River and Hermosa Creek drainages and includes Kennebec Pass. A rough four-wheel drive road leads to a parking area and provides access to the Colorado Trail, which continues west to Taylor Lake and east to Junction Creek. The landscape is a mosaic of subalpine forest that grades into isolated islands of dwarfed trees at the upper elevations, and lush meadows of wildflowers, alpine tundra and talus slopes. Two plants endemic to Colorado, kittentails (*Besseyia ritteriana*) and showy whitlowgrass (*Draba spectabilis*), are found in wet meadows with osha (*Ligusticum porteri*), Colorado false hellebore (*Veratrum tenuipetalum*), bistort (*Bistorta bistortoides*), showy alpine ragwort (*Ligularia amplexans*), thickleaf ragwort (*Senecio crassulus*), king's crown (*Rhodiola integrifolia*) and other typical subalpine meadow species. Higher, along the Colorado Trail on Indian Trail Ridge, alpine tundra supports an abundance of forbs and grasses, including alpine avens (*Geum rossii*), snow willow (*Salix reticulata*), Parry's clover (*Trifolium parryi*), American alpine speedwell (*Veronica nutans*), pale agoseris (*Agoseris glauca*), tufted hairgrass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*), timothy (*Phleum communtatum*), alpine bluegrass (*Poa alpina*), and spike trisetum (*Trisetum spicatum*). Altai chick weed (*Stellaria irrigua*) is found along the jeep road to Kennebec Pass, in scree, along with Fremont's groundsel (*Senecio fremontii*), Holm's ragwort (*Ligularia holmii*), thickroot claytonia (*Claytonia megarhiza*), sky pilot (*Polemonium viscosum*) and harbour penstemon (*Penstemon harbourii*).

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 01/30/2004

Designer Lyon, M.J.

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Boundary Justification

The boundary is drawn to follow the ridges that define Columbus Basin, and incorporate the headwaters of La Plata Creek. It includes occurrences and provides additional suitable habitat.

Primary Area 983.01 Acres 397.81 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B4: Moderate Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

The rank of the Cumberland Basin site is based on an excellent (A-ranked) occurrence of *Caltha leptosepala* (G4/S4), an excellent (A-ranked) occurrence of *Geum rossii* - *Polygonum bistortoides* (G4G5/S4S5), a good (B-ranked) occurrence of *Salix brachycarpa* / mesic forbs (G4/S4) and a good (B-ranked) occurrence of Altai chick weed (*Stellaria irrigua*), a plant that is probably globally secure (G4?) but rare in Colorado (S2).

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>
24806	<i>Salix brachycarpa</i> / Mesic Forbs Shrubland	Alpine Willow Scrub	G4	S4	Yes
17150	<i>Stellaria irrigua</i>	Altai chickweed	G4?	S2	Yes
16989	<i>Caltha leptosepala</i> Herbaceous Vegetation	Montane Wet Meadows	G4	S4	Yes
24567	<i>Geum rossii</i> - <i>Polygonum bistortoides</i> Herbaceous Vegetation	Alpine Meadows	G4G5	S4S5	Yes

REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
184581	Lyon, P. 2003. Colorado Natural Heritage Program La Plata County Biological Assessment.

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date 01/30/2004
Version Author Lyon, M.J.

Disclaimer

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