

# Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Dale Creek

Site Code S.USCOHP\*5814

## IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 794 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>
456	S.USCOHP7*3230	Laramie Foothills

## LOCATORS

Nation United States Latitude 405438N  
State Colorado Longitude 1052212W

Quad Code Quad Name  
40105-H3 Virginia Dale

### County

Larimer (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name  
10190007 Cache La Poudre

## SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	6,600.00 Feet	2,012.00 Meters
Maximum Elevation	7,180.00 Feet	2,188.00 Meters

### Site Description

The Dale Creek drainage is surrounded by granite hills and vertical cliffs. The creek flows north to south and most of the surrounding slopes have east or west-facing aspects. Ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) is sparse on the hillsides which are mostly dominated by mountain mahogany (*Cercocarpus montanus*), golden currant (*Ribes aureum*), and skunkbush (*Rhus trilobata*). The understory consists mainly of buckwheat (*Eriogonum umbellatum*), pricklypear cactus (*Opuntia*), fringed sage (*Artemisia frigida*), mountain muhly (*Muhlenbergia montana*), and hairy golden aster (*Heterotheca villosa*) often with much exposed bare rock. Large dramatic outcrops of Silver Plume granite are common, and support the rare Larimer aletes (*Aletes humilis*).

### 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 10/14/1996

Designer Spackman, S.C. and K.K. Fayette

### Boundary Justification

The boundary encompasses the rare plant occurrence and a buffer to protect from direct disturbance. The steep slopes on which the plant occurs offer some natural protection. Unsurveyed potential habitat occurs outside of the site boundary and future surveys will likely lead to revisions of the boundary.

Primary Area 275.94 Acres 111.67 Hectares

## SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B2: Very High Biodiversity Significance

### Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site contains an excellent (A-ranked) occurrence of Larimer aletes (*Aletes humilis*), a globally imperiled (G2G3/S2S3) plant, on Silver Plume granite cliffs. This species is only known from Larimer and Boulder counties and is restricted to areas with large Silver Plume granite outcrops. The scenic values and the large, natural landscape surrounding this occurrence add to its importance.

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Other Values Rank No Data

## Other Values Comments

Scenic.

## LAND MANAGEMENT ISSUES

### Land Use Comments

Grazing.

### Natural Hazard Comments

Rattlesnakes. Rock cliffs.

### Exotics Comments

Cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*) was found to be dense in areas.

### Offsite

A dam is being planned for Halligan Reservoir which is downstream, however, it may flood very close to this site.

### 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>
17408	<i>Aletes humilis</i>	Larimer aletes	G2G3	S2S3	Yes

## REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
192692	Doyle, G.A., S.L. Neid and R.J. Rondeau. 2005. Final Report: Survey of Critical Biological Resources, Larimer County, Colorado. Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Fort Collins, CO.
166568	Kettler, S., J. Sanderson, S. Spackman, K. Fayette, C. Pague, D. Clark, and A. Hicks. 1996. Final Report: Significant plant, animal, and wetland resources of Larimer County and their conservation. Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Fort Collins, CO.

## ADDITIONAL TOPICS

### Additional Topics

No Data

## VERSION

Version Date 03/01/2005

Version Author Doyle, G.A.

## Disclaimer

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