

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Devils Staircase

Site Code S.USCOHP*25951

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 2312 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 401354N
State Colorado Longitude 1054540W

Quad Code Quad Name
40105-B7 Shadow Mountain

County
Grand (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name
14010001 Colorado headwaters

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	9,000.00	Feet	2,743.20	Meters
Maximum Elevation	9,300.00	Feet	2,834.64	Meters

Site Description

The Devils Staircase site is located in Rocky Mountain National Park. The Devils Staircase is aptly named due to the steepness of the trail as it climbs up from East Inlet Creek. Weber's monkey-flower (*Mimulus gemmiparus*), a globally rare plant, has established its niche under the cliff overhangs. The gneiss cliffs are formed from sedimentary rocks of the Precambrian Age (Tweto 1979). Subalpine fir (*Abies lasiocarpa*) and Engelmann spruce (*Picea engelmannii*), with lodgepole pine (*Pinus contorta*) is the dominant plant community surrounding the cliffs. The Weber's monkey-flower flourishes within the micro-habitat, dominated by bracted alumroot (*Heuchera bracteata*) and stiff club-moss (*Lycopodium annotinum*).

Key Environmental Factors

Presence of seep water along gneiss ledges.

Climate Description

No Data

Land Use History

No Data

Cultural Features

No Data

SITE DESIGN

Site Map Y - Yes Mapped Date 01/23/2006
Designer Culver, D.R.

Boundary Justification

The boundary is drawn to capture the rare plant occurrence as well as the immediate watershed from the west slope of Mt. Cairns to East Inlet Creek.

Primary Area 79.58 Acres 32.20 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B1: Outstanding Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site supports a good (B-ranked) occurrence of Weber's monkey-flower (*Mimulus gemmiparus*) a globally critically imperiled (G1/S1) plant. Weber's monkey-flower has evolved a unique reproduction strategy. Its leaf petiole bases are modified to form pockets containing dormant embryonic shoots (Spackman et al. 1997). With additional survey on the cliffs above the known EO, more individuals are expected, potentially elevating this to an A-ranked occurrence. Thus, this site is identified as irreplaceable due to its outstanding biodiversity.

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Other Values Rank V2 - High values

Other Values Comments

Popular trail for Park visitors.

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>
18872	<i>Mimulus gemmiparus</i>	budding monkeyflower	G1	S1	Yes

REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
193632	Culver, D.R. and Jones, J.R. 2006. Final Report: Survey of Critical Biological Resources in Grand County. Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Fort Collins, CO.
164970	Spackman, S., B. Jennings, J. Coles, C. Dawson, M. Minton, A. Kratz, and C. Spurrier. 1997. Colorado Rare Plant Field Guide. Prepared for the Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Forest Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service by the Colorado Natural Heritage Program.
192747	Tweto, O. 1979. Geologic Map of Colorado, 1:500,000. United States Geological Survey, Department of Interior, and Geologic Survey of Colorado, Denver, CO.

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date 01/23/2006

Version Author Culver, D.R.

Disclaimer

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