

# Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Dixon Creek

Site Code S.USCOHP\*618

## IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 237 Site Class PCA  
Site Alias Headwaters Fossil Creek  
Site Alias Dixon Lake

## 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 403056N  
State Colorado Longitude 1050737W

<u>Quad Code</u>	<u>Quad Name</u>
40105-E2	Horsetooth Reservoir
40105-E1	Fort Collins
40105-D2	Masonville
40105-D1	Loveland

## County

Larimer (CO)

<u>Watershed Code</u>	<u>Watershed Name</u>
10190007	Cache La Poudre

## SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	5,050.00 Feet	1,539.24 Meters
Maximum Elevation	5,300.00 Feet	1,615.44 Meters

## Site Description

The primary feature of this site is a Niobrara Formation shale hogback. This ridge runs north-south at this location for approximately five miles. The northern portion of the site includes the Pine Ridge Natural Area. The southern portion of the site includes City of Fort Collins Cathy Fromme Prairie and Coyote Ridge Natural Areas. The Westridge Housing subdivision abuts the Cathy Fromme Prairie and displaces previously occupied habitat. The Larimer County landfill (occurring between Cathy Fromme and Coyote Ridge) probably displaced occupied habitat as well. The Niobrara shale outcrops are sparsely vegetated with mountain mahogany, yucca, and a range of native grasses. There are many trails used by hikers, and mountain bikers that dissect the City Natural Areas.

## 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 03/01/2005  
Designer Doyle, G.A.

## Boundary Justification

The site boundary includes the known occurrences of Bell's twinpod and the adjacent slopes. Lands to the south have been plowed for agriculture and are not considered potential habitat. Land north of the site has been surveyed for Bell's twinpod with none located. The boundary excludes portions of the Westridge subdivision and the Larimer County landfill. Bell's twinpod has been documented within the subdivision but these lands are not considered of conservation value. A portion of the Westridge subdivision adjacent to Cathy Fromme Prairie is included within the boundary as multiple dry washes there support Bell's twinpod; however, these washes are considered of very low conservation value.

Primary Area	1,216.78 Acres	492.42 Hectares
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## SITE SIGNIFICANCE

**Biodiversity Significance Rank** B2: Very High Biodiversity Significance

### Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site supports three good (B-ranked) occurrences of Bell's twinpod (*Physaria bellii*), a globally imperiled (G2/S2) plant. This site also contains a fair occurrence of the globally imperiled (G2G3) mountain mahogany / New Mexico feathergrass shrubland (*Cercocarpus montanus* / *Hesperostipa neomexicana*). Bell's twinpod is known only from shale or sandstone hogbacks along the foothills of the Front Range from Jefferson County north to near the Wyoming border. Due to its limited range and direct threats to its habitat along the Front Range foothills Bell's twinpod is considered globally imperiled (G2).

**Other Values Rank** No Data

### Other Values Comments

No Data

## LAND MANAGEMENT ISSUES

### Land Use Comments

Recreational hiking, and mountain biking. High housing development pressures.

### Natural Hazard Comments

No Data

### Exotics Comments

*Bromus tectorum*, *Bromus enermis*, and *Cynglossum* are spreading in the area.

### Offsite

No Data

### Information Needs

No Data

## ASSOCIATED ELEMENTS OF BIODIVERSITY

<u>Element</u>	<u>State Scientific Name</u>	<u>State Common Name</u>	<u>Global Rank</u>	<u>State Rank</u>	<u>Driving Site Rank</u>
23937	<i>Physaria bellii</i>	Bell's twinpod	G2G3	S2S3	Yes
23937	<i>Physaria bellii</i>	Bell's twinpod	G2G3	S2S3	Yes
23937	<i>Physaria bellii</i>	Bell's twinpod	G2G3	S2S3	Yes
40630	<i>Cercocarpus montanus</i> / <i>Hesperostipa neomexicana</i> Shrubland	Foothills Shrubland	G2G3	S2S3	No

## 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

Original site design by Fayette, K.K and S.C. Spackman. 1994-09-12.

## VERSION

**Version Date** 03/01/2005

**Version Author** Doyle, G.A.

## Disclaimer

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