

# Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Dolores Peak

Site Code S.USCOHP\*25373

## IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 2200 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 375010N  
State Colorado Longitude 1080549W

Quad Code Quad Name  
37108-G1 Dolores Peak

County  
Dolores (CO)  
San Miguel (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name  
14030002 Upper Dolores

## SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	11,400.00 Feet	3,474.72 Meters
Maximum Elevation	13,000.00 Feet	3,962.40 Meters

### Site Description

The site begins at timberline on the southeast slopes of Dolores Peak, and extends to 13,000 feet, just below the summit. A mixture of barren talus, dry tundra and wet meadows comprises the site. Snowfall from the site feeds the West Dolores River. A hiking trail approaches the site from the Fish Creek drainage, but once above treeline, travelers tend to find their own routes. House's stitchwort (*Alsina the macrantha*) was found in both dry tundra and talus, at all elevations in the site. Other plants growing in and adjacent to the talus just above timberline include American rock-brake, stinging nettles, Colorado columbine, black groundsel, Thurber fescue, twinberry honeysuckle, brittle fern, raspberry, thickroot claytonia, and Gray's angelica (*Cryptogramma acrostichoides*, *Urtica gracilis*, *Aquilegia coerulea*, *Senecio atratus*, *Festuca thurberi*, *Distegia involucrata*, *Cystopteris fragilis*, *Rubus ideaeus*, *Claytonia megarhiza*, and *Angelica grayi*). At higher elevations, there is a very high diversity of common tundra plants such as cushion phlox, moss campion, alpine fescue, Rocky Mountain clover, false strawberry, dwarf clover, pygmy goldenweed, golden whitlow-grass, alpine avens, lanceleaf bluebells, blackhead daisy, Holm's ragwort, purple fringe, wallflower, old man of the mountains, sky pilot, arctic bluegrass, slender wheatgrass, bistort, cutleaf daisy, and Hayden's Indian paintbrush (*Phlox condensata*, *Silene acaulis*, *Festuca brachyphylla*, *Trifolium attenuatum*, *Sibbaldia procumbens*, *Trifolium nanum*, *Tonestus pygmaeus*, *Draba aurea*, *Geum rossii*, *Mertensia lanceolata*, *Erigeron melanocephalus*, *Senecio amplexans* var. *holmii*, *Phacelia sericea*, *Erysimum capitatum*, *Rydbergia grandiflora*, *Polemonium confertum*, *Poa arctica*, *Elymus trachycaulus*, *Bistorta bistortoides*, *Erigeron compositus*, and *Castilleja haydenii*). Small moist depressions in the site contain a diversity of alpine and subalpine graminoids and forbs, including thistle groundsel, Holm sedge, chiming bells, rose crown and fleshy starwort (*Senecio crassulus*, *Carex chaliceolepis*, *Mertensia ciliata*, *Rhodiola integrifolia*, and *Stellaria crassifolia*).

### Key Environmental Factors

At and above timberline; wind, UV light, little snow accumulation.

### Climate Description

No Data

### Land Use History

No Data

### Cultural Features

No Data

## SITE DESIGN

Site Map Y - Yes Mapped Date 02/01/2005  
Designer Lyon, M.J.

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## Boundary Justification

The boundary is drawn to include the talus slopes and dry tundra that support House's stitchwort (*Alsinothe macrantha*). It includes the south-facing slopes of Dolores Peak at and above timberline.

Primary Area 170.45 Acres 68.98 Hectares

## SITE SIGNIFICANCE

**Biodiversity Significance Rank** B3: High Biodiversity Significance

## Biodiversity Significance Comments

The site rank is based on an excellent (A-ranked) occurrence of a globally vulnerable (G3/S3) plant. At this time, House's stitchwort appears to be locally abundant but little documented. Further survey and documentation of additional populations may lower the species rank, thus lowering the biodiversity rank of this site.

**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

Meadows below the site had exotic species including *Cirsium arvense* and *Bromus inermis*.

## 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>
22706	<i>Alsinothe 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** 02/01/2005

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

## Disclaimer

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