

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Elliot Mountain-Sockrider Peak

Site Code S.USCOHP*25375

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 2202 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 374341N
State Colorado Longitude 1080343W

Quad Code Quad Name

37108-F1 Rico

County

Dolores (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name

14030002 Upper Dolores

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	11,400.00	Feet	3,474.72	Meters
Maximum Elevation	12,340.00	Feet	3,761.23	Meters

Site Description

The Highline Stock Trail follows the long ridge of Precambrian rock connecting the high Peaks of Elliott Mountain, Sockrider Peak and Johnny Bull Peak. An extensive network of hiking and horse trails lead to the Highline Stock Trail from various access points. The site encompasses high alpine talus slopes and rock outcrops, moist alpine meadows and dry tundra. The highlands of the site rise above rich spruce-fir and aspen forests and broad wet meadows. The rare plants found at the site were found in a variety of habitats: House's stitchwort (*Alsinarthe macrantha*) and Boreal whitlow-grass (*Draba borealis*) grow both in rocky areas and cushion plant communities, while Altai chickweed (*Stellaria irrigua*) is confined to talus slopes. Colorado Divide whitlow-grass (*Draba streptobrachia*) was found in crevices of solid rock outcrops. Some common alpine species that occupy the talus slopes of the site include Fremont's groundsel, Holm's ragwort, Colorado columbine, and brittle fern (*Senecio fremontii*, *Senecio amplexans* var. *holmii*, *Aquilegia coerulea*, and *Cystopteris fragilis*.) Rocky alpine tundra supports a high diversity of plants including House's stitchwort, cushion phlox, Rocky Mountain lousewort, alpine avens, Franciscan bluebells, Bering chickweed, Rocky Mountain clover, alpine timothy, alpine sagebrush, alpine clover, golden saxifrage and Rocky Mountain snowlover (*Alsinarthe macrantha*, *Phlox condensata*, *Pedicularis scopulorum*, *Geum rossii*, *Mertensia franciscana*, *Cerastium beeringianum*, *Trifolium attenuatum*, *Phleum commutatum*, *Artemisia scopulorum*, *Trifolium nanum*, *Hirculus platysepalus*, and *Chionophila jamesii*.) The trail is open to both hikers and motorcycles, although parts of it are dangerously steep and rocky for motorized use. Use of horses is popular from the Calico trailhead, both during the summer and in hunting season.

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 12/08/2004
Designer Lyon, M.J.

Boundary Justification

The boundary is drawn to include the alpine areas along the ridge from Calico Peak to Johnny Bull Peak. It encompasses a mosaic of intermingling micro sites suitable to the species above. The rocky ridgetop supports House's stitchwort (*Alsinarthe macrantha*) and Boreal whitlow-grass (*Draba borealis*), while

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scattered outcrops of solid rock are home to Colorado Divide whitlowgrass (*Draba streptobrachia*), and associated talus slopes just below the ridge have Altai chickweed (*Stellaria irrigua*). Surveys in 2004 covered the area between Calico Peak and Sockrider Mountain, and from another access point, the summit of Johnny Bull Mountain. It is expected that the unsurveyed areas in the site contain more of the same rare plants. The site is intended to include sufficient area to support potential pollinators and movement of the plant populations over time.

Primary Area 528.39 Acres 213.83 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site supports excellent (A-ranked) occurrences of a globally vulnerable (G3/S3) plant species House's stitchwort (*Alsinanthe macrantha*). The site also contains an additional unranked occurrence of the House's stitchwort, a fair occurrence (C-ranked) of the globally vulnerable (G3/S3) Colorado Divide whitlow-grass (*Draba streptobrachia*), fair occurrences (C-ranked) of the state imperiled (G4/S2) Boreal whitlow-grass (*Draba borealis*), and a good occurrence (B-ranked) of the state imperiled (G4/S2) Altai chickweed (*Stellaria irrigua*).

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>
17150	<i>Stellaria irrigua</i>	Altai chickweed	G4?	S2	No
22706	<i>Alsinanthe macrantha</i>	House's sandwort	G3	S3	Yes
22706	<i>Alsinanthe macrantha</i>	House's sandwort	G3	S3	Yes
19134	<i>Draba borealis</i>	northern rockcross	G4	S2	No
21234	<i>Draba streptobrachia</i>	Colorado Divide whitlow-grass	G3	S3	No
19134	<i>Draba borealis</i>	northern rockcross	G4	S2	No

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 12/08/2004

Version Author Lyon, M.J.

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