

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Endlich Mesa

Site Code S.USCOHP*24737

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 2102 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 372958N
State Colorado Longitude 1073640W

<u>Quad Code</u>	<u>Quad Name</u>
37107-E5	Columbine Pass
37107-D5	Vallecito Reservoir

County

La Plata (CO)

<u>Watershed Code</u>	<u>Watershed Name</u>
14080104	Animas
14080101	Upper San Juan

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation - Feet - Meters
Maximum Elevation - Feet - Meters

Site Description

This site is located at timberline, with scattered clumps of Engelmann spruce (*Picea engelmannii*) and subalpine fir (*Abies lasiocarpa*). The habitat of Townsend's Easter daisy (*Townsendia incana*) is composed of fellfields, or open rocky areas with very shallow compacted soils. Leadville limestone bedrock is broken and gravelly at its exposed surface. There is minimal vegetation, except in depressions that have accumulated deeper soils and on small knolls with reddish soil, which do not support the rare plants. The site includes the mesa top and another barren area to the east below the cliffs that has lighter tan soils. Townsend's Easter daisy numbered in the thousands on the mesa top, and in the hundreds on the lighter soils. Associated plants in the area included Holm's ragwort (*Ligularia holmii*), moss campion (*Silene acaulis*), alpine sandwort (*Lidia obtusiloba*), orange sneezeweed (*Dugaldia hoopesii*), cutleaf anemone (*Anemone multifida*), Geyer's onion (*Allium geyeri*) and Parry's goldenrod (*Oreochrysum parryi*).

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 01/30/2004
Designer Lyon, M.J.

Boundary Justification

The boundary is drawn to encompass the occurrence of Townsend's Easter daisy on Endlich Mesa. The extent of the population to the north, west and south was determined. There may be additional plants to the east and northeast in areas that were not surveyed.

Primary Area 1,669.07 Acres 675.45 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B2: Very High Biodiversity Significance

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Biodiversity Significance Comments

The Endlich Mesa site supports and excellent (A-ranked) occurrence of Rothrock's Easter daisy (*Townsendia rothrockii*), a globally imperiled (G2/S2) plant. This is one of the two largest occurrences of Rothrock's Easter daisy known as of 2003. The other is also in La Plata County, at Lime Mesa. Both sites are on Leadville limestone, and have similar topography.

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>
23143	<i>Townsendia rothrockii</i>	Rothrock townsend-daisy	G2G3	S2S3	Yes

REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
184581	Lyon, P. 2003. Colorado Natural Heritage Program La Plata County Biological Assessment.

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date 01/30/2004
Version Author Lyon, M.J.

Disclaimer

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