Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Hermosa Peak **Site Code** S.USCOHP*25378

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 2205 **Site Class** PCA

Site Alias None

Network of Conservation Areas (NCA)

NCA Site ID	NCA Site Code	NCA Site Name
-		No Data

LOCATORS

Nation United States **Latitude** 374226N

State Colorado **Longitude** 1075552W

Quad Code	Quad Name
37107-F8	Hermosa Peak

County

San Juan (CO)

Dolores (CO)

Watershed Code	Watershed Name
14080104	Animas
14030002	Upper Dolores

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	11,400.00	**Feet**	3,474.72	**Meters**
Maximum Elevation	12,579.00	**Feet**	3,834.08	**Meters**

Site Description

This site, located on the border of San Juan and Dolores counties, is a region of high alpine peaks, meadows, rock outcrops, talus slopes and creeks fed by gradual snow melt. Uplifted Jurassic sandstones and Tertiary intrusive rocks form the high ridge that divides the Animas River drainage from the Dolores River drainage. Rising above the spruce-fir forests, the lower slopes have grassy areas dominated by Thurber fescue and osha, grading into alpine tundra and talus slopes at the highest elevations. The alpine community includes diverse species, including Gray's angelica, black-headed daisy, purple fringe, weak saxifrage, Colorado columbine, sulphur Indian paintbrush, alpine sagebrush, bistort, Holm's ragwort, thickroot claytonia, alpine sorrel and arctic willow (Angelica grayi, Erigeron melanocephalus, Phacelia sericea, Saxifraga hyperborea ssp. debilis, Aquilegia coerulea, Castilleja sulphurea, Artemisia scorpulorum, Bistorta bistortoides, Senecio holmii, Claytonia megarhiza, Oxyria digyna and Salix arctica). House's stitchwort (Alsinanthe macrantha) was widespread and abundant in this community. The occurrence of Altai chickweed (Stellaria irrigua) was located on the edge of a talus slope below Hermosa Peak, in areas of smaller size rock. Draba borealis was found just below a ridge top in crevices of a rock outcrop.

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 rare plant occurrences, with additional potential habitat that may be occupied but unsurveyed, or will allow for expansion of the plant populations in the future. It encompasses intermingling microsites of rocky tundra and talus. It is intended to be sufficiently large to accommodate pollinators of the plants.

Primary Area 577.44 **Acres** 233.68 **Hectares**

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SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

The site rank is based on an excellent (A-ranked) occurrence of House's stitchwort (Alsinanthe macrantha), 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. A fair (C-ranked) and good (B-ranked) occurrence of Altai chickweed (G4?/S2) and a good (B-ranked) occurrence of northern rockcress (G4/S2) also inhabit the site.

Other Values Rank No Data

Other Values Comments

No Data

LAND MANAGMENT 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

Element State ID	State Scientific Name	State Common Name	Global Rank	State Rank	Driving Site Rank
19134	*Draba borealis*	northern rockcress	G4	S2	No
22706	*Alsinanthe macrantha*	House's sandwort	G3	S3	Yes
17150	*Stellaria irrigua*	Altai chickweed	G4?	S2	No
17150	*Stellaria irrigua*	Altai chickweed	G4?	S2	No

REFERENCES

Reference ID	Full Citation
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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