

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Highline Trail

Site Code S.USCOHP*24793

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 2115 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> |
|--------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| 2148 | S.USCOHP*24990 | Hermosa Creek |

LOCATORS

Nation United States Latitude 373628N
State Colorado Longitude 1075935W

| <u>Quad Code</u> | <u>Quad Name</u> |
|------------------|------------------|
| 37108-E1 | Orphan Butte |
| 37107-E8 | Elk Creek |
| 37107-F8 | Hermosa Peak |

County

Montezuma (CO)
La Plata (CO)

| <u>Watershed Code</u> | <u>Watershed Name</u> |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 14080104 | Animas |
| 14030002 | Upper Dolores |

SITE DESCRIPTION

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

Site Description

This site is located along the long ridge that forms the border between La Plata and Montezuma counties. The site comprises a mosaic of open grasslands, wet meadows and subalpine forest. Forested areas occur along the ridgetop, and are dominated by Engelmann's spruce (*Picea engelmannii*) and subalpine fir (*Abies lasiocarpa*). Wet drainages running southeast from the ridge top are dominated by Colorado false hellebore (*Veratrum tenuipetalum*). Drier areas along the same slope are dominated by Thurber fescue (*Festuca thurberi*). Showy whitlow-grass (*Draba spectabilis* var. *oxyloba*) occurred in all three plant communities, while kittentails (*Besseya ritteriana*) was mostly confined to the wet 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 01/30/2004
Designer Lyon, M.J.

Boundary Justification

The boundary is drawn to encompass the occurrence and may be extended with further field work.

Primary Area 1,795.83 Acres 726.75 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) *Festuca thurberi* grassland.

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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> |
| 24997 | <i>Festuca thurberi</i> Subalpine Grassland Herbaceous Vegetation | | G3 | S3 | 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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