

# Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name House Creek

Site Code S.USCOHP\*25379

## IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 2206 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 373351N  
State Colorado Longitude 1082534W

Quad Code Quad Name

37108-E4 Boggy Draw

### County

Montezuma (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name

14030002 Upper Dolores

## SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	7,761.00 Feet	2,365.55 Meters
Maximum Elevation	7,800.00 Feet	2,377.44 Meters

### Site Description

This site is in a ponderosa pine/Gambel oak (*Pinus ponderosa*/*Quercus gambelii*) forest community that is typical of the area. The site is unique because of the presence of *Triteleia grandiflora*, which unlike many of our state rare plants that are peripheral from Utah or New Mexico, is disjunct from the Pacific Northwest. How the species became established this far from its source is a puzzle to botanists. The population was first discovered by Leslie Stewart in 1998, when it was estimated that there were 1,500 to 2,000 individuals at the site. This was confirmed in a site visit in 2004. The tall, wand-like plants occupy a gentle south to southwest slope of about 3% in rolling uplands, in sandy-loam soils. They were found both under trees and shrubs and in grassy openings. Total tree cover was estimated at 30%, with forbs accounting for 40% and graminoids 25%. Bare ground was only 10%. Associated species include ponderosa pine, Gambel oak, Louisiana sagewort, spreading fleabane, Nuttall's larkspur, bitterbrush, Utah serviceberry, many-lobed groundsel, mountain parsley, mule's ears, and snowberry (*Pinus ponderosa*, *Quercus gambelii*, *Artemisia ludoviciana*, *Erigeron flagellaris*, *Delphinium nuttallianum*, *Purshia tridentata*, *Amelanchier utahensis*, *Senecio multifolatus*, *Pseudocymopterus montanus*, *Wyethia*, *Symphoricarpos oreophilus*). Wetter areas support iris, golden banner, mullein, coyote willow and shrubby cinquefoil (*Iris missouriensis*, *Thermopsis montana*, *Verbascum thapsus*, *Salix exigua* and *Potentilla fruticosa*). The area was logged in the early 20th century. There is also evidence of a previous fire in the area, but it was apparently of low intensity.

### 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 encompasses the rare plant population, and includes additional adjacent area in the same habitat to allow for future expansion of the population. The site was limited to an area mapped as ponderosa pine forest on Dakota sandstone, in the fairly level area surrounding the occurrence, between the elevations of 7,700 and 7,800 feet.

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Primary Area 721.29 Acres

291.90 Hectares

## SITE SIGNIFICANCE

**Biodiversity Significance Rank** B4: Moderate Biodiversity Significance

### Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site is drawn for an excellent (A-ranked) occurrence of the large-flower *Triteleia* (*Triteleia grandiflora*), a plant that is globally common (G4G5) but extremely rare (S1) in Colorado. As of 2005, this is the only occurrence known in the state.

**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>
20546	<i>Triteleia grandiflora</i>		G4G5	S1	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** 12/08/2004

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

## Disclaimer

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