

# Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name La Foret

Site Code S.USCOHP\*1251

## IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 1744 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 390002N  
State Colorado Longitude 1044128W

## Quad Code Quad Name

39104-A6 Black Forest  
38104-H6 Falcon NW

## County

El Paso (CO)

## Watershed Code Watershed Name

10190010 Kiowa  
11020004 Chico  
11020003 Fountain

## SITE DESCRIPTION

<b>Minimum Elevation</b>	7,080.00	<b>Feet</b>	2,158.00	<b>Meters</b>
<b>Maximum Elevation</b>	7,704.00	<b>Feet</b>	2,348.00	<b>Meters</b>

## Site Description

Near its northernmost limit, the La Foret site includes the highest point in the Black Forest (Vollmer Hill at 7,704 feet) and drops in elevation to the south to 7,080 feet at its southern boundary. The headwaters of numerous creeks and streams radiate from this site, including Black Squirrel Creek, Kettle Creek, Cherry Creek, and Sand Creek. The Black Forest is unique in that it is the only place in Colorado where montane forest grows east of the Front Range and foothills. On vegetation maps, satellite images, and even from the summit of Pikes Peak, this extension of forest into the plains is very conspicuous. The flora and structure of this forest resembles that of the Black Hills in South Dakota, and the area contains many interesting disjunct species. Many of the plant species here are considered "woodland prairie relicts" which were once more common in Colorado and have diminished here due to climatic change. The Black Forest offers these species a refuge in which they can persist, widely disjunct from other populations of the same species. Long-term separation of populations of this sort can lead to allopatric speciation (the formation of new species via geographic isolation from parent populations), and for this and other reasons these disjunct populations are interesting and worthy of conservation attention. The Richardson alum-root (*Heucheria richardsonii*), prairie goldenrod (*Unamia alba*), birdfoot violet (*Viola pedatifida*), and Selkirk's violet (*V. selkirkii*) are all common elsewhere but rare in Colorado. Although no occurrences are present in this site, the gay feather (*Liatris ligulistylis*) is another species that is found in the Black Forest that falls into this category. It prefers open meadows in the Black Forest and appears to have diminished greatly there due to fire suppression and ecosystem transformation. One occurrence of the Southern Rocky Mountain cinquefoil was found during 2000.

## 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 09/01/2000

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Designer Anderson, D.G.

## Boundary Justification

The site boundary includes all the known occurrences within the area for the target plant species. Suitable habitat areas are included surrounding the occurrences due to the high probability that other occurrences remain undiscovered in the vicinity. Although the site was not drawn for these elements, the boundary also includes three historic or extirpated natural community occurrences.

Primary Area 8,539.36 Acres 3,455.77 Hectares

## SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B4: Moderate Biodiversity Significance

## Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site contains a fair (C-ranked) occurrence of the globally vulnerable (G3/S1S2) Southern Rocky Mountain cinquefoil and numerous good-to-poor occurrences of woodland prairie relict plant species. These species are state rare and disjunct from other parts of their range.

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 State ID</u>	<u>State Scientific Name</u>	<u>State Common Name</u>	<u>Global Rank</u>	<u>State Rank</u>	<u>Driving Site Rank</u>
18073	<i>Viola pedatifida</i>	prairie violet	G5	S2	No
23559	<i>Unamia alba</i>	prairie goldenrod	G5	S2S3	No
20486	<i>Heuchera richardsonii</i>	Richardson alum-root	G5	S1	No
23559	<i>Unamia alba</i>	prairie goldenrod	G5	S2S3	No
18073	<i>Viola pedatifida</i>	prairie violet	G5	S2	No
23559	<i>Unamia alba</i>	prairie goldenrod	G5	S2S3	No
22568	<i>Potentilla ambigens</i>	southern Rocky Mountain cinquefoil	G3	S1S2	Yes
23559	<i>Unamia alba</i>	prairie goldenrod	G5	S2S3	No
23559	<i>Unamia alba</i>	prairie goldenrod	G5	S2S3	No
18073	<i>Viola pedatifida</i>	prairie violet	G5	S2	No

## REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
-	No Data

## ADDITIONAL TOPICS

## Additional Topics

No Data

## VERSION

Version Date 09/01/2000

Version Author Anderson, D.G.

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