

# Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Lake Como

Site Code S.USCOHP\*23981

## IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 1113 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 375517N  
State Colorado Longitude 1073719W

### Quad Code Quad Name

37107-H6 Ironton  
37107-H5 Handies Peak

### County

San Juan (CO)

### Watershed Code Watershed Name

14020006 Uncompahange  
14080104 Animas

## SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation 12,000.00 Feet 3,658.00 Meters  
Maximum Elevation 13,447.00 Feet 4,099.00 Meters

### Site Description

Lake Como is a beautiful, bright turquoise jewel of a lake, at the headwaters of the north-flowing Uncompahgre River. It is a popular stop for 4-wheel drive sightseers. Hurricane Peak, at 13,447 ft. marks the southwest boundary of the site, while California Pass marks the southeastern boundary. Below California Pass, at the base of a rock glacier, late melting snowbanks support a large population of San Juan whitlow-grass (*Draba graminea*). Associated plant species here include *Silene acaulis*, *Senecio fremontii*, *Ligularia holmii*, *Ligularia soldanella*, and *Claytonia megarhiza*. A second population of *Draba graminea* was found north of Lake Como, in exposed north-facing rocks, again in an area where snow persists late in the season. Small rock outcrops near Lake Como support Colorado Divide whitlow-grass in rock crevices. Talus slopes at California Pass support *Penstemon harbourii*, a San Juan endemic plant.

### 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 12/13/2002  
Designer Lyon, M.J.

### Boundary Justification

The boundary is drawn to encompass the occurrences of *Draba graminea*, a plant that requires cool areas with late melting snow. These occurrences are interspersed with areas that support two other *Draba* species that grow in crevices and on ledges of rock outcrops.

Primary Area 236.71 Acres 95.79 Hectares

## SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B2: Very High Biodiversity Significance

### Biodiversity Significance Comments

The Lake Como site supports an excellent (A-ranked) occurrence of San Juan whitlow-grass (*Draba*

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graminea), a globally imperiled (G2/S2) species. It also has a good occurrence of *D. crassa* (B-ranked) which is globally vulnerable (G3/S3), and a fair occurrence (C-ranked) of *D. streptobrachia* which is also globally vulnerable (G3/S3).

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>
21274	<i>Draba crassa</i>	thick-leaf whitlow-grass	G3G4	S3	No
21234	<i>Draba streptobrachia</i>	Colorado Divide whitlow-grass	G3	S3	No
17247	<i>Draba graminea</i>	San Juan whitlow-grass	G2	S2	Yes

## REFERENCES

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

## ADDITIONAL TOPICS

## Additional Topics

No Data

## VERSION

Version Date	12/13/2002
Version Author	Lyon, M.J.

## Disclaimer

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