

# Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Lawson Butte

Site Code S.USCOHP\*12377

## IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 1927 Site Class PCA  
Site Alias Highway 9 at Junction Butte

### 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 400000N  
State Colorado Longitude 1062158W

<u>Quad Code</u>	<u>Quad Name</u>
40106-A3	Junction Butte
39106-H3	King Creek
40106-A4	Kremmling

### County

Grand (CO)

<u>Watershed Code</u>	<u>Watershed Name</u>
14010002	Blue

## SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	7,460.00 Feet	2,273.81 Meters
Maximum Elevation	8,200.00 Feet	2,499.36 Meters

### Site Description

The Lawson Butte site is located in the southern portion of Middle Park. Middle Park is located within a series of high mountain parks formed by north/south trending faults traveling the length of Colorado (Chronic 1980). The predominant grayish-brown soils (USDA, NRCS 1994) are derived from Cretaceous Niobrara and Pierre Shale of the Troublesome Formation (Tweto 1979). Lawson Butte is one in a series of rolling hills on both sides of Highway 9. Elliott Creek runs along the northern border and the Blue River is west of the site. Vegetation is primarily composed of Wyoming big sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata* var. *wyomingensis*) and rubber rabbitbrush (*Ericameria nauseosa*). Dog parsley (*Aletes nuttallii*) dominates the herbaceous layer with western wheatgrass (*Pascopyrum smithii*).

### Key Environmental Factors

Edaphic indicators are clayey, seleniferous soils derived from Niobrara and Pierre shale, soil series Harsha and Tine series (USDA, NRCS 1994).

### Climate Description

The climate follows typical weather patterns of high mountain valleys, low precipitation/snowfall (<12-15 inches/year) and late summer "monsoons".

### Land Use History

No Data

### Cultural Features

No Data

## SITE DESIGN

Site Map Y - Yes Mapped Date 01/29/2006  
Designer Culver, D.R.

### Boundary Justification

Dog parsley (*Aletes nuttallii*) is not known to be restricted by soil or geology, however, this occurrence appears to be populating barren areas that may be related to the Harsha and Tine soil types. Based on this hypothesis, boundaries delineate potential habitat based on soils (USDA, NRCS 1994), and also encompass potential habitat to allow the population to move over time and to protect the occurrence from direct disturbances. The north boundary is defined by Elliott Creek, Lawson Ridge is the eastern border, and Highway 9 defines the western border.

Primary Area 818.25 Acres 331.13 Hectares

## SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Copyright © 2011. Colorado State University. Colorado Natural Heritage Program. All Rights Reserved.

# Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Lawson Butte

Site Code S.USCOHP\*12377

Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

## Biodiversity Significance Comments

The Lawson Butte site supports a good (B-ranked) occurrence of the globally vulnerable (G3/S1) dog parsley (*Aletes nuttallii*). Dog parsley is a regional endemic that reaches its southern most range in Colorado. This site contains one of the largest occurrences observed during the summer of 2005 by CNHP staff.

Other Values Rank V4 - No known values

## Other Values Comments

No known values.

## LAND MANAGEMENT ISSUES

### Land Use Comments

No Data

### Natural Hazard Comments

No Data

### Exotics Comments

No Data

### Offsite

No Data

### Information Needs

The pollinator for this species is unknown. Necessary habitat for the pollinator should be included in this site when determined.

## 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>
18877	<i>Aletes nuttallii</i>	dog parsley	G3	S1	Yes

## REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
158413	Chronic, H. 1980. Roadside geology of Colorado. Mountain Press Publishing Company, Missoula, Montana. 322 pp.
162659	Colorado Native Plant Society. 1989. Rare plants of Colorado. Colorado Native Plant Society, Estes Park, CO.
193632	Culver, D.R. and Jones, J.R. 2006. Final Report: Survey of Critical Biological Resources in Grand County. Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Fort Collins, CO.
192747	Tweto, O. 1979. Geologic Map of Colorado, 1:500,000. United States Geological Survey, Department of Interior, and Geologic Survey of Colorado, Denver, CO.
193653	U.S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service. 1994. State Soil Geographic (STATSGO) database for Colorado. Fort Worth, TX.

## ADDITIONAL TOPICS

### Additional Topics

Original site design by Fayette, K.K. 1998-03-20.

## VERSION

Version Date 01/29/2006  
Version Author Culver, D.R.

## Disclaimer

# Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Lawson Butte

Site Code S.USCOHP\*12377

These data are a product and property of Colorado State University, Colorado Natural Heritage Program (CNHP). These data are strictly "on loan" and should be considered "works in progress". Data maintained in the Colorado Natural Heritage Program database are an integral part of ongoing research at CSU and reflect the observations of many scientists, institutions and our current state of knowledge. These data are acquired from various sources, with varying levels of accuracy, and are continually being updated and revised. Many areas have never been surveyed and the absence of data in any particular geographic area does not necessarily mean that species or ecological communities of concern are not present. These data should not be regarded as a substitute for on-site surveys required for environmental assessments. Absence of evidence is NOT evidence of absence. Absence of any data does not mean that other resources of special concern do not occur, but rather CNHP files do not currently contain information to document this presence. CNHP is not responsible for whether other, non-CNHP data providers have secured landowner permission for data collected.

**These data are provided for non-commercial purposes only.** Under no circumstances are data to be distributed in any fashion to outside parties. To ensure accurate application of data, tabular and narrative components must be evaluated in conjunction with spatial components. Failure to do so constitutes a misuse of the data. The Colorado Natural Heritage Program shall have no liability or responsibility to the data users, or any other person or entity with respect to liability, loss, or damage caused or alleged to be caused directly or indirectly by the data, including but not limited to any interruption of service, loss of business, anticipatory profits or indirect, special, or consequential damages resulting from the use of operation of the data. Data users hereby agree to hold CNHP, Colorado State University, and the State of Colorado harmless from any claim, demand, cause of action, loss, damage or expense from or related to data users use of or reliance on the data, regardless of the cause or nature thereof, and even in the event that such cause is attributable to the negligence or misconduct of CNHP.

These data are provided on an as-is basis, as-available basis without warranties of any kind, expressed or implied, INCLUDING (BUT NOT LIMITED TO) WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY, FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE, AND NON-INFRINGEMENT. Although CNHP maintains high standards of data quality control, CNHP, Colorado State University, and the State of Colorado further expressly disclaim any warranty that the data are error-free or current as of the date supplied