

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Lime Mesa

Site Code S.USCOHP*24735

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 2100 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 373238N
State Colorado Longitude 1074052W

Quad Code Quad Name
37107-E6 Mountain View Crest

County
La Plata (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name
14080104 Animas

SITE DESCRIPTION

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

Site Description

This site is characterized by large openings in the subalpine forest near timberline. Very shallow compacted rocky soils overlie Leadville limestone that has weathered in place. Both Rothrock's Easter daisy (*Townsendia rothrockii*) and Colorado tansy aster (*Machaeranthera coloradoensis*) are most abundant on small rocky knolls with sparse vegetation. Plants were in late flower and fruit when observed in late August. Associated plants were Rand's goldenrod (*Solidago simplex*), field chickweed (*Cerastium strictum*), alpine sandwort (*Lidia obtusiloba*), alpine bluegrass (*Poa alpina*), Gordon's ivesia (*Ivesia gordonii*), nodding locoweed (*Oxytropis deflexa* var. *deflexa*), and featherleaf fleabane (*Erigeron pinnatisectus*). Adjacent dry areas with deeper soils and more vegetation were dominated by alpine avens (*Geum rossii*), shrubby cinquefoil (*Potentilla frucosa*), hairy golden aster (*Heterotheca villosa*) and Parry's clover (*Trifolium parryi*). Small depressions with deep soils and more moisture, dominated by Colorado false hellebore (*Veratrum tenuipetalum*), supported populations of showy whitlow-grass (*Draba spectabilis*) and kittentails (*Besseya ritteriana*).

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 encompasses the occurrences of Townsend's Easter daisy (*Townsendia incana*) and Colorado tansy-aster, which occur in open areas within the spruce - fir forest.

Primary Area 1,287.80 Acres 521.16 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B2: Very High Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

The Lime Mesa site supports an excellent (A-ranked) occurrence of the globally imperiled (G2G3/S2S3) Rothrock's Easter daisy (*Townsendia rothrockii*) and an excellent (A-ranked) occurrence of the globally

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vulnerable (G3/S3) Colorado tansy aster (*Machaeranthera coloradoensis*). Thousands of individuals of each species were found in 2003. A specimen of Colorado Divide whitlow-grass (*Draba streptobrachia*) was collected in the area in 1982 by Siplivinsky. However, the exact location and information on abundance were not given.

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>
23143	<i>Townsendia rothrockii</i>	Rothrock townsend-daisy	G2G3	S2S3	Yes
23921	<i>Machaeranthera coloradoensis</i>	Colorado tansy-aster	G3	S3	No

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.

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