

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Missouri Mountain Complex

Site Code S.USCOHP*8411

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 811 Site Class PCA
Site Alias Mount Oxford
Site Alias Missouri Mountain

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 385739N
State Colorado Longitude 1062136W

Quad Code Quad Name

38106-H4 Winfield
38106-H3 Mount Harvard

County

Chaffee (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name

11020001 Arkansas Headwaters

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	12,500.00 Feet	3,810.00 Meters
Maximum Elevation	14,197.00 Feet	4,327.25 Meters

Site Description

The Missouri Mountain Complex site is located in the northern Sawatch Range (Collegiate Peaks) northwest of Buena Vista. Missouri Mountain (14,067 ft.), Mount Belford (14,197 ft.) and Mount Oxford (14,153 ft.) are located between Clear Creek to the north and Pine Creek to the south. Elkhead Pass separates Missouri Mountain from Mounts Belford and Oxford. The Sawatch Range is composed primarily of coarse schists and gneisses intruded by Precambrian granites and of metamorphosed limestone and quartzite. The northern portion is primarily Precambrian gneiss and schist (Chronic and Williams 2002). The site consists of typical alpine vegetation that has adapted to intense solar radiation, extreme cold, and dry, desiccating winds. The vegetation is dominated by Ross' avens (*Geum rossii*), boreal sagebrush (*Artemisia arctica*), dry sedges (*Carex elynoides*, *C. foena*, *C. rupestris*), alpine clovers (*Trifolium dasyphyllum*, *T. nanum*), and several alpine grasses (*Deschampsia cespitosa*, *Trisetum spicatum*, *Festuca brachyphyllum*). Animals that utilize this site and other alpine areas include American Pipit (*Anthus rubescens*), Brown-capped Rosy Finch (*Leucosticte australis*), and White-tailed Ptarmigan (*Lagopus muta*).

Key Environmental Factors

No Data

Climate Description

The site receives an average of 300 days of sunshine each year. A typical summer day is sunny, in the high 60's to low 70's with evening temperatures in the high 30's and low 40's. Annual rainfall is 10.15" and annual snowfall is 30.4" with most snow occurring from the end of October through April.

Land Use History

No Data

Cultural Features

Mount Belford was named for Territorial Judge James B. Belford, the first Colorado member of the U.S. House of Representative. Mount Oxford is a member of the Collegiate Peaks named by John Hart (Bright 2004).

SITE DESIGN

Site Map Y - Yes Mapped Date 02/13/2009
Designer Culver, D.R.

Boundary Justification

The site is drawn to protect the element occurrences from direct impacts such as trampling or other surface disturbances. A buffer is drawn to provide plants with suitable habitat where additional individuals can become established over time.

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Primary Area 2,911.33 Acres

1,178.18 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site supports an excellent (A-ranked) occurrence of the globally vulnerable (G3/S3) thick-leaf whitlow-grass (*Draba crassa*), and an excellent (A-ranked) occurrence of the globally vulnerable (G3G4/S1) woolly fleabane (*Erigeron lanatus*). Additional species include a fair to poor (CD-ranked) occurrence of the globally imperiled (G2/S2) Gray's Peak whitlow-grass (*Draba grayana*), a Colorado endemic, the state rare (G4G5/S2) tundra buttercup (*Ranunculus gelidus* ssp. *grayi*) and the state rare (G5/S2) dwarf hawksbeard (*Ascellia nana*). The majority of these species are circumpolar, occurring only in Colorado's alpine zone.

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>
18353	<i>Ranunculus gelidus</i> ssp. <i>grayi</i>	tundra buttercup	G4G5	S2	No
21481	<i>Erigeron lanatus</i>	woolly fleabane	G3G4	S1	Yes
16688	<i>Ascellia nana</i>	dwarf hawksbeard	G5	S2	No
21274	<i>Draba crassa</i>	thick-leaf whitlow-grass	G3G4	S3	Yes
21274	<i>Draba crassa</i>	thick-leaf whitlow-grass	G3G4	S3	No
17794	<i>Draba grayana</i>	Gray's Peak whitlow-grass	G2	S2	No
21481	<i>Erigeron lanatus</i>	woolly fleabane	G3G4	S1	No

REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
198294	Bright, W. 2004. Colorado Place Names. Johnson Books, Boulder, CO.
198295	Chronic, H. and F. Williams. 2002. Roadside Geology of Colorado. Second Edition. Mountain Press Publishing Company. Missoula, MT.
198290	Culver, D.R., D. Malone, S.L. Neid, and J. Handwerk. 2009. Final Report: Survey of Critical Biological Resources in Chaffee County. Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Fort Collins, CO.

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

Missouri Mountain: Original site design by Spackman, S.C. 1997-04-10. Mount Oxford: Original site design by Fayette, K.K. 1997-04-10.

VERSION

Version Date 02/13/2009

Version Author Culver, D.R.

Disclaimer

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