

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Mount Flora

Site Code S.USCOHP*1239

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 1776 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 394822N
State Colorado Longitude 1054417W

<u>Quad Code</u>	<u>Quad Name</u>
39105-G7	Berthoud Pass
39105-G6	Empire

County

Clear Creek (CO)
Grand (CO)

<u>Watershed Code</u>	<u>Watershed Name</u>
10190004	Clear
14010001	Colorado headwaters

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	12,800.00	Feet	3,901.44	Meters
Maximum Elevation	13,100.00	Feet	3,992.88	Meters

Site Description

The site is a high elevation (12,800 to 13,100) peak situated on E-W trending portion of the Continental Divide and is very windswept and rocky. E and S faces of the ridges of the peak are steep/cliffy headwalls of cirques. W and N faces are less steep and with less rockiness. Vegetation is predominately fellfield/cushion plants with patches of better developed turf communities. On the lee slopes are snowfield patches with seepy/wet soils. Vegetation in these is sparse indicating very late melting snows. In dips in the ridgeline to the W of Mt Flora are small areas of S and W facing gravely scree above cliffy rock outcrops. Generally these areas are steep and loose, not safe to walk across to check plant species. The area closest to Mt Flora summit was relatively safe and may have a population of *Erigeron humilis*. Lower W and N facing slopes have well developed, extensive areas of graminoid dominated vegetation, most likely *Kobresia myosuroides* or *Carex elyniodes* with *Acomostylis rossii*. Meadows dominated by *Deschampsia caespitosa* could also be present. This is a nice area with few impacts from hikers/hunters. Large herds of elk (30-40 animals) have been seen just above timberline on west slope of Mt Flora.

Key Environmental Factors

No Data

Climate Description

No Data

Land Use History

Lower west-facing slopes may have been sheep grazed in the past.

Cultural Features

No Data

SITE DESIGN

Site Map P - Partial Mapped Date 09/12/1994
Designer Pague, C.A.

Boundary Justification

The primary boundary includes plant populations and scree slope below. Secondary boundary includes more of the saddle area and rocky tundra where additional individuals may occur.

Primary Area	198.02	Acres	80.14	Hectares
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SITE SIGNIFICANCE

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Biodiversity Significance Rank B2: Very High Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

The site biodiversity rank is based on an excellent (A-ranked) occurrence of a globally imperiled plant (G2/S2), clawless draba (*Draba exunguiculata*). The site also supports an extant occurrence of a globally imperiled plant (G2/S2), Gray's Peak whitlow-grass (*Draba grayana*), a fair (C-ranked) occurrence of a globally vulnerable plant (G3/S3), thick-leaf whitlow-grass (*Draba crassa*), an excellent (A-ranked) occurrence of the state rare (G4/S2S3) arctic draba (*Draba fladnizensis*) and a good to fair (BC-ranked) occurrence of the state rare (G4/S1) low fleabane (*Erigeron humilis*).

Other Values Rank No Data

Other Values Comments

No Data

LAND MANAGEMENT ISSUES

Land Use Comments

Used by hikers/backpackers, and hunters. Other uses unknown. Lower west slopes may have been sheep grazed in the past.

Natural Hazard Comments

Steep slippery screes and talus; extremes of weather; careless hunters.

Exotics Comments

None apparent. No sign of mountain goats.

Offsite

No Data

Information Needs

Confirmation of *E. humilis* population and more surveys in this area to ID any other populations.

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>
20928	<i>Erigeron humilis</i>	low fleabane	G4	S1	No
17794	<i>Draba grayana</i>	Gray's Peak whitlow-grass	G2	S2	No
19017	<i>Draba fladnizensis</i>	arctic draba	G4	S2S3	No
18813	<i>Draba exunguiculata</i>	clawless draba	G2	S2	Yes
21274	<i>Draba crassa</i>	thick-leaf whitlow-grass	G3G4	S3	No

REFERENCES

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

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date	09/12/1994
Version Author	Pague, C.A.

Disclaimer

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