

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Mount Goliath Research Natural Area

Site Code S.USCOHP*1237

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 1251 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 393825N
State Colorado Longitude 1053513W

Quad Code Quad Name
39105-F5 Idaho Springs

County

Clear Creek (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name
10190004 Clear
10190002 Upper South Platte

SITE DESCRIPTION

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

Site Description

A rocky east to SE to south-facing slope at timberline with an old stand of *Pinus aristata*. Studies have shown the trees to be up to 1,500 years of age. The lower, east-facing stand is denser; moving around the slope to the south-facing at tree line. There are many seedlings and some saplings. The understory is in good condition with little evidence of off-trail users except on the bottom trailhead. Lower part of stand/RNA has much more spruce - fir and is mixed with the pine, including spruce and fir seedlings.

Key Environmental Factors

No Data

Climate Description

No Data

Land Use History

No Data

Cultural Features

No Data

SITE DESIGN

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

Boundary Justification

Preserve design updated with a 1992 study. Infrared aerial photography was used to include the entire bristlecone stand in the boundary. In addition, to incorporate more of the ecological processes affecting this site, upslope areas on Mt. Goliath are included. Approximately 640 acres are currently within a USFS Research Natural Area.

Primary Area 1,176.68 Acres 476.19 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B2: Very High Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site contains a good (B-ranked) occurrence of a globally imperiled (G2/S2) plant community, *Pinus aristata* / *Trifolium dasyphyllum*, and an excellent (A-ranked) occurrence of the *Pinus aristata* / *Juniperus communis* woodland whose global rank is unknown at this time (GU/SU).

Other Values Rank No Data

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Other Values Comments

No Data

LAND MANAGEMENT ISSUES

Land Use Comments

From the parking lot area there are several paths that contour into the lower part of the stand and RNA. In this area there are more impacts; understory is beaten down, old fire rings. Paths only extend a few hundred feet and peter out. Hikers appear to stay on the main trail, although some obviously scramble up to the top of Mt. Goliath. No known history of grazing.

Natural Hazard Comments

Extremes of weather.

Exotics Comments

None apparent.

Offsite

This site is on a heavily used corridor/highway to Mt. Evans. On either side of the highway is Mt. Evans Wilderness. Visitor/Information Center at Mt. Goliath parking lot can be expected to increase casual users and impacts in the lower part of the stand. It may also lead to an increase in hikers on the Water Pessman Trail. These activities are incompatible with the research aspects of an RNA.

Information Needs

Plant community quantitative 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>
24639	<i>Pinus aristata</i> / <i>Juniperus communis</i> Woodland	Montane Woodlands	GU	SU	No
24835	<i>Pinus aristata</i> / <i>Trifolium dasyphyllum</i> Woodland	Upper Montane Woodlands	G2	S2	Yes

REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
169418	Reid, Marion S. 1992. Field Survey to Mt. Goliath Research Natural Area.

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

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

Disclaimer

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