

# Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Mount Yale

Site Code S.USCOHP\*27556

## IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 2565 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 385055N  
State Colorado Longitude 1061854W

### Quad Code Quad Name

38106-G3 Mount Yale

### County

Chaffee (CO)

### Watershed Code Watershed Name

11020001 Arkansas Headwaters

## SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	12,200.00	Feet	3,718.56	Meters
Maximum Elevation	14,196.00	Feet	4,326.94	Meters

### Site Description

Mount Yale site is located within the Collegiate Peaks of the Sawatch Range. Mount Yale, at 14,196 ft., is one of nine fourteeners in the Collegiate Peaks. From Mount Yale north, peaks of the Sawatch Range are composed of Precambrian gneiss and schist derived from ancient sedimentary and volcanic rocks deposited along the continent's margin about 1.8 billion years ago (Chronic and Williams 2002). The soils are shallow and rocky. 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 are known to 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

No Data

### Land Use History

The Mount Yale trail is a very popular hike for mountaineers.

### Cultural Features

Mount Yale was first climbed by a research team from Harvard University led by Josiah Whitney. The group named the taller Mount Harvard (14,420 ft) after their own university and the shorter Mount Yale after Whitney's alma mater. Due to the similarity in heights of Mount Princeton and Mount Yale (Mount Princeton is 1 foot higher), it was once a tradition for the alumni of each school to carry rocks to the top of their respective mountain in order to add to the stone pyramid built at the summit. The graduates used these rock towers to ensure their mountain was the tallest (Bright 2004).

## SITE DESIGN

Site Map P - Partial Mapped Date 01/16/2009

Designer Culver, D.R.

### Boundary Justification

The boundaries are drawn to encompass the rare plant populations and potential habitat on Mount Yale.

Primary Area 1,397.61 Acres 565.60 Hectares

## SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

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## Biodiversity Significance Comments

This alpine site supports a fair (C-ranked) occurrence of the globally imperiled (G2/S2) Colorado endemic Gray's Peak whitlow-grass (*Draba grayana*) and an extant occurrence of the globally vulnerable (G3/S3) thick-leaf whitlow-grass (*Draba crassa*).

**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

This site and element occurrences were not visited during the 2008 county survey and need to be updated.

## 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>
17794	<i>Draba grayana</i>	Gray's Peak whitlow-grass	G2	S2	Yes
21274	<i>Draba crassa</i>	thick-leaf whitlow-grass	G3G4	S3	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

No Data

## VERSION

**Version Date** 01/16/2009

**Version Author** Culver, D.R.

## Disclaimer

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