

# Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Navajo Basin

Site Code S.USCOHP\*25384

## IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 2211 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 375054N  
State Colorado Longitude 1080029W

<u>Quad Code</u>	<u>Quad Name</u>
37107-G8	Mount Wilson
37108-G1	Dolores Peak

### County

Dolores (CO)

<u>Watershed Code</u>	<u>Watershed Name</u>
14030002	Upper Dolores

## SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	11,200.00 Feet	3,413.76 Meters
Maximum Elevation	12,800.00 Feet	3,901.44 Meters

### Site Description

This site is in a high alpine region north of El Diente Peak and Mount Wilson, which contains the headwaters of the West Dolores River. The site encompasses a steep upper basin of talus slopes, rocky outcrops and small patches of vegetation. Snow fields feed a high alpine lake and wetland below the talus slopes. Three species of alpine Draba: San Juan whitlow-grass, Boreal whitlow-grass and Colorado Divide whitlow-grass (*Draba graminea*, *D. borealis* and *D. streptobrachia*) are found in the sparsely vegetated crevices of rock outcrops. Altai chickweed (*Eriophorum altaicum* var. *neogaeum*) occurs in the flat boggy area at the upper end of the lake with *Salix planifolia* and *Carex aquatilis*, and in another wet area farther up the drainage. Other associated taxa include: thistle groundsel, elephantella, subalpine fleabane, dwarfed Engelmann spruce, black sedge, bistort, Eastwood's podistera, marsh marigold, tufted hairgrass and different leaved groundsel (*Senecio crassulus*, *Pedicularis groenlandica*, *Erigeron peregrinus*, *Picea engelmannii*, *Carex nova*, *Bistorta vivipara*, *Podistera eastwoodiae*, *Caltha leptosepala*, *Deschampsia cespitosa* and *Senecio dimorphophyllus*.) Altai chickweed (*Stellaria irrigua*) is found in the talus with sparse vegetation including harbour Penstemon, wallflower, Colorado columbine, Rocky Mountain clover and purple fringe (*Penstemon harbourii*, *Erysimum capitatum*, *Aquilegia coerulea*, *Trifolium attenuatum*, and *Phacelia sericea*.)

### 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 12/08/2004  
Designer Lyon, M.J.

### Boundary Justification

The boundary is drawn to take in the alpine basin above Navajo Lake, including the location of six rare plant occurrences. All species are dependent on hydrological and geological processes within the basin such as snow accumulation and melting and weathering of bedrock. The mosaic of microsites within the basin includes talus slopes that support Altai chickweed, small rock outcrops that are home to the Drabas, and the wetlands that support Altai cotton-grass.

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Primary Area 712.91 Acres

288.51 Hectares

## SITE SIGNIFICANCE

**Biodiversity Significance Rank** B2: Very High Biodiversity Significance

### Biodiversity Significance Comments

The Navajo Basin site supports a good (B-ranked) occurrence of San Juan whitlow-grass, a globally imperiled (G2/S2) plant that is endemic to the San Juan Mountains in Colorado. There are also good occurrences of the globally vulnerable (G3/S3) Colorado Divide whitlow-grass and House's stitchwort, state rare (S2) boreal whitlow-grass, Altai chickweed and Altai cottongrass.

**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 Rank</u>	<u>State Rank</u>	<u>Driving Site Rank</u>
<u>State ID</u>	<u>State Scientific Name</u>	<u>State Common Name</u>			
19134	<i>Draba borealis</i>	northern rockcress	G4	S2	No
17150	<i>Stellaria irrigua</i>	Altai chickweed	G4?	S2	No
22706	<i>Alsinanthe macrantha</i>	House's sandwort	G3	S3	No
21874	<i>Eriophorum altaicum</i> var. <i>neogaeum</i>	Altai cottongrass	G4?T3T4	S3	No
21234	<i>Draba streptobrachia</i>	Colorado Divide whitlow-grass	G3	S3	No
17247	<i>Draba graminea</i>	San Juan whitlow-grass	G2	S2	Yes

## REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
192772	Lyon, M.J. 2005. Final Report: Survey of Rare Plants. San Juan Public Lands in Dolores and Montezuma counties, Colorado. Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Fort Collins, CO.
192742	March, M.A. 2005. Final Report: Natural Heritage Wetland Inventory of Dolores County. Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Fort Collins, CO.

## ADDITIONAL TOPICS

### Additional Topics

No Data

## VERSION

**Version Date** 12/08/2004

**Version Author** Lyon, M.J.

## Disclaimer

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