

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name North Creede

Site Code S.USCOHP*15690

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 952 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 375240N
State Colorado Longitude 1065458W

<u>Quad Code</u>	<u>Quad Name</u>
37106-H8	San Luis Peak
37106-G8	Creede

County

Mineral (CO)

<u>Watershed Code</u>	<u>Watershed Name</u>
13010001	Rio Grande headwaters

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	8,880.00 Feet	2,707.00 Meters
Maximum Elevation	11,040.00 Feet	3,365.00 Meters

Site Description

The North Creede site includes the scenic and dramatic volcanic cliffs that provide the town of Creede with a most picturesque backdrop. This area was the hub for the successful silver mining industry that began in 1891 and lasted until 1985 (Chronic 1980; Bachelor Historic Tour Guide Book). Currently, it is known as the historical and popular scenic drive known as the "Bachelor Loop Trail". Numerous old mines, both small and large, and old town sites are scattered throughout. The rare plants that are found at this site are found on the same cliffs and talus slopes that were mined. In fact, several old and undisturbed mine tailing piles and road construction debris provide the talus slopes that Smith whitlow-grass requires. Current land use is primarily recreation, mainly as a scenic drive through the historic mining operations.

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 12/10/1998
Designer Rondeau, R.J.

Boundary Justification

Includes cliff habitat for *Gilia penstemonoides* and *Draba smithii*. The boundaries drawn include the elements found within the site. In addition, similar suitable habitat for both of these plants has been included within this boundary. We used on-the-ground surveys and 7.5 minute topographic maps to delineate the boundary.

Primary Area	1,479.81 Acres	598.86 Hectares
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SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B2: Very High Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

B-ranked occurrence of *Draba smithii* and *Gilia penstemonoides*. This site supports a large population of two Colorado endemic plants, Smith whitlow-grass (*Draba smithii*) and black canyon gilia (*Gilia penstemonoides*). Two Colorado endemic plant species, Smith whitlow-grass and black canyon gilia, have

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some of the largest known populations at the North Creede site. The Smith whitlow-grass has been found in Mineral, Saguache, Costilla, and Las Animas counties, with approximately 15 known occurrences. Of the known occurrences, Mineral County harbors the largest populations, and North Creede site contains one of the largest populations, with at least several hundred individuals estimated. The black canyon gilia has been found in Gunnison, Montrose, Hinsdale and Mineral counties with approximately 25 known occurrences. Mineral County supports the largest known populations, of which the North Creede site is among the best, with an estimated population size of several hundred plants.

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>
23498	<i>Gilia penstemonoides</i>	Black Canyon gilia	G3	S3	No
21624	<i>Draba smithii</i>	Smith whitlow-grass	G2	S2	Yes

REFERENCES

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

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date	12/10/1998
Version Author	Rondeau, R.J.

Disclaimer

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