

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Ophir Pass

Site Code S.USCOHP*21246

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 585 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 375111N
State Colorado Longitude 1074648W

Quad Code Quad Name

37107-G7 Ophir

County

San Miguel (CO)

San Juan (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name

14030003 San Miguel

14080104 Animas

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	11,789.00	Feet	3,593.00	Meters
Maximum Elevation	12,187.00	Feet	3,715.00	Meters

Site Description

Ophir Pass, at the far eastern end of San Miguel County, is home to several rare alpine plant species. Three species of whitlow-wort, two species of moonwort, and the Altai chickweed were found here in 1999. The site straddles the county line and extends into San Juan County. A gravel county road provides access to the pass. The site is located north of the pass, and can be accessed by a trail that follows the power line just east of the pass. There are two small lakes in the site. Common plant species in the site include cutleaf daisy, snow lover, alpine harebell, rose paintbrush, candytuft, moss campion, three-toothed groundsel, snow willow, alpine sandwort, alpine avens, golden saxifrage, western paintbrush, Colorado columbine, blue violet, Glaber daisy, black-head daisy, Greene's daisy, diamond-leaf saxifrage, alpine bistort, American bistort, alpine parsley, and bilberry. Several sub-populations of the Altai chickweed were found on the summit north of the pass, and on the northeast-facing slope at the saddle southwest of the power line. They were found in scree, where few other plants were growing. Most of the tiny plants were vegetative, and could be easily overlooked. The Arctic draba, on the other hand, was growing among fairly dense vegetation dominated by alpine avens. Associated species included diamond-leaf saxifrage, American bistort, alpine sandwort, old man of the mountain, dwarf clover, moss campion, cushion phlox, Rocky Mountain lousewort, alpine fescue, and curly sedge. There were no exotic plant species found in the site.

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 03/13/2000

Designer Lyon, M.J. and J.R. Sovell

Boundary Justification

The boundary encompasses the occurrences of several rare plants at this site.

Primary Area	60.67	Acres	24.55	Hectares
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SITE SIGNIFICANCE

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Biodiversity Significance Rank B5: General Biodiversity Interest

Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site contains several good occurrences (B-ranked) of plant species which are imperiled (S2) in Colorado.

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>
21274	<i>Draba crassa</i>	thick-leaf whitlow-grass	G3G4	S3	No
22682	<i>Botrychium pinnatum</i>	northern moonwort	G4?	S1	No
19017	<i>Draba fladnizensis</i>	arctic draba	G4	S2S3	Yes
21234	<i>Draba streptobrachia</i>	Colorado Divide whitlow-grass	G3	S3	No
17150	<i>Stellaria irrigua</i>	Altai chickweed	G4?	S2	Yes

REFERENCES

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

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date	03/13/2000
Version Author	Lyon, M.J. and J.R. Sovell

Disclaimer

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