

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Rat Creek Pond

Site Code S.USCOHP*15698

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 220 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 375237N
State Colorado Longitude 1065732W

<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	10,400.00 Feet	3,170.00 Meters
Maximum Elevation	10,600.00 Feet	3,231.00 Meters

Site Description

Rat Creek Pond site is best characterized as small volcanic rock outcrops with talus slopes and a kettle pond. The surrounding vegetation is a montane forest dominated by either Engelmann spruce (*Picea engelmannii*) or aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) with isolated patches of bristlecone pine (*Pinus aristata*). The talus slopes at the base of the rock outcrops as well as on the west-facing slopes of the kettle pond provide excellent habitat for the rare Smith whitlow-grass. The kettle pond was seething with salamanders during our 1998 summer visit. Pikas were common throughout the rocky areas and we observed numerous rodent bites out of the Smith whitlow-grass that may be attributed to the pikas.

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

The boundary was drawn to encompass the occurrence of the Smith whitlow-grass and adjacent suitable habitat. The site boundary was delineated by an on-the ground survey and referenced to the 7.5 minute topographic map.

Primary Area	44.57 Acres	18.04 Hectares
--------------	-------------	----------------

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B2: Very High Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site supports a medium sized (B-ranked) population of the globally rare (G2/S2) and Colorado endemic Smith whitlow-grass (*Draba smithii*). This small mustard is only known from four counties in southern Colorado.

Other Values Rank No Data

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Rat Creek Pond

Site Code S.USCOHP*15698

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>
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

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Rat Creek Pond

Site Code S.USCOHP*15698

These data are a product and property of Colorado State University, Colorado Natural Heritage Program (CNHP). These data are strictly "on loan" and should be considered "works in progress". Data maintained in the Colorado Natural Heritage Program database are an integral part of ongoing research at CSU and reflect the observations of many scientists, institutions and our current state of knowledge. These data are acquired from various sources, with varying levels of accuracy, and are continually being updated and revised. Many areas have never been surveyed and the absence of data in any particular geographic area does not necessarily mean that species or ecological communities of concern are not present. These data should not be regarded as a substitute for on-site surveys required for environmental assessments. Absence of evidence is NOT evidence of absence. Absence of any data does not mean that other resources of special concern do not occur, but rather CNHP files do not currently contain information to document this presence. CNHP is not responsible for whether other, non-CNHP data providers have secured landowner permission for data collected.

These data are provided for non-commercial purposes only. Under no circumstances are data to be distributed in any fashion to outside parties. To ensure accurate application of data, tabular and narrative components must be evaluated in conjunction with spatial components. Failure to do so constitutes a misuse of the data. The Colorado Natural Heritage Program shall have no liability or responsibility to the data users, or any other person or entity with respect to liability, loss, or damage caused or alleged to be caused directly or indirectly by the data, including but not limited to any interruption of service, loss of business, anticipatory profits or indirect, special, or consequential damages resulting from the use of operation of the data. Data users hereby agree to hold CNHP, Colorado State University, and the State of Colorado harmless from any claim, demand, cause of action, loss, damage or expense from or related to data users use of or reliance on the data, regardless of the cause or nature thereof, and even in the event that such cause is attributable to the negligence or misconduct of CNHP.

These data are provided on an as-is basis, as-available basis without warranties of any kind, expressed or implied, INCLUDING (BUT NOT LIMITED TO) WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY, FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE, AND NON-INFRINGEMENT. Although CNHP maintains high standards of data quality control, CNHP, Colorado State University, and the State of Colorado further expressly disclaim any warranty that the data are error-free or current as of the date supplied