

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Redstone Creek Cliffs

Site Code S.USCOHP*619

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 1843 Site Class PCA
Site Alias Milner Mountain Northwest

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 403203N
State Colorado Longitude 1051240W

Quad Code Quad Name
40105-E2 Horsetooth Reservoir

County

<u>Watershed Code</u>	<u>Watershed Name</u>
10190006	Big Thompson
10190007	Cache La Poudre

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	5,500.00 Feet	1,676.40 Meters
Maximum Elevation	6,000.00 Feet	1,828.80 Meters

Site Description

The site includes the lower west-facing slopes of Milner Mountain, a similar landform on the west side of Road 38E, cliffs to the east of Redstone Canyon road, and various outcrops along Redstone Canyon Road. This site roughly outlines the contact of the Fountain and Ingleside formations where the Bell's twinpod (*Physaria bellii*) has been documented (Braddock et al. 1989). The diversity in topography is created by multiple geologic faults in the area. The slopes are generally composed of red sandy soils with small to medium rocks of white and red sandstone. The dominant vegetation is mountain mahogany (*Cercocarpus montanus*) with sunflower (*Helianthus pumilus*), three-awn grass (*Aristida purpurea*), prickly pear cactus (*Opuntia sp.*), blue grama (*Bouteloua gracilis*), fringed sage (*Artemisia frigida*), skunk brush (*Rhus trilobata*), Rocky Mountain juniper (*Juniperus scopulorum*), yucca (*Yucca glauca*), Indian rice grass (*Oryzopsis hymenoides*), and snakeweed (*Gutierrezia sarothrae*). Total vegetative cover varies from 20 to 90 percent. A county road (38E) bisects the southern portion of the site and Redstone Canyon Road bisects the northern part. There is a housing development on Milner Mountain that is encroaching on the suitable habitat for Bell's twinpod (*Physaria bellii*).

Key Environmental Factors

No Data

Climate Description

No Data

Land Use History

Grazing.

Cultural Features

No Data

SITE DESIGN

Site Map Y - Yes Mapped Date 02/20/2005

Designer Doyle, G.A.

Boundary Justification

The boundary encompasses the occurrences and small buffer to protect against direct disturbance. The site was drawn to include the north-south trending hogback of Fountain and Ingleside formation along Redstone Canyon Road. Due to the complex geology in the area, some areas of non-suitable habitat are included within the boundary. The site has not been thoroughly searched for Bell's twinpod and likely includes more plants than documented.

Primary Area 1,025.50 Acres 415.01 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

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Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site supports two fair (C-ranked) occurrences of Bell's twinpod (*Physaria bellii*), a globally imperiled (G2/S2) plant. Bell's twinpod is known only from shale or sandstone hogbacks along the foothills of the Front Range from Jefferson County north to near the Wyoming border.

Other Values Rank No Data

Other Values Comments

No Data

LAND MANAGEMENT ISSUES

Land Use Comments

Grazing, residential development.

Natural Hazard Comments

No Data

Exotics Comments

Mostly exotic free, though cheatgrass, *Cynoglossum*, *Melilotus*, and *Cirsium* were noted on roadsides and in some of the drainages but not with the rare plants.

Offsite

No Data

Information Needs

Bell's twinpod has long been considered to be primarily restricted to Niobrara shale. The occurrence on Fountain and Ingleside formation sandstone such as within this site is little studied.

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>
23937	<i>Physaria bellii</i>	Bell's twinpod	G2G3	S2S3	Yes
23937	<i>Physaria bellii</i>	Bell's twinpod	G2G3	S2S3	Yes

REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
192816	Braddock, William A., Ronald H. Calvert, Joseph T. O'Conner, and Gordon A. Swann. 1989. Geologic Map of the Horsetooth Reservoir Quadrangle, Larimer County, Colorado.
192692	Doyle, G.A., S.L. Neid and R.J. Rondeau. 2005. Final Report: Survey of Critical Biological Resources, Larimer County, Colorado. Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Fort Collins, CO.
166568	Kettler, S., J. Sanderson, S. Spackman, K. Fayette, C. Pague, D. Clark, and A. Hicks. 1996. Final Report: Significant plant, animal, and wetland resources of Larimer County and their conservation. Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Fort Collins, CO.

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

Original site design by Spackman, S.C. and K.K. Fayette, 1994-09-12.

VERSION

Version Date 02/20/2005

Version Author Doyle, G.A.

Disclaimer

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