

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Sheephead Basin

Site Code S.USCOHP*24733

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 2098 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>
2148	S.USCOHP*24990	Hermosa Creek

LOCATORS

Nation United States Latitude 372802N
State Colorado Longitude 1075906W

Quad Code Quad Name
37107-D8 Monument Hill

County
La Plata (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name
14080104 Animas

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation - Feet - Meters
Maximum Elevation - Feet - Meters

Site Description

The site comprises a small alpine stream that is a tributary of the South Fork of Hermosa Creek, and adjacent wet slopes within a montane forest. Two rare plants, kittentails (*Besseya ritteriana*) and showy whitlow-grass (*Draba spectabilis*), are found on steep, wet north-facing hillsides that are dominated by Colorado false hellebore (*Veratrum tenuipetalum*) and green gentian (*Frasara speciosa*). The showy whitlow-grass and kittentails were considered vulnerable until this survey, when many new occurrences were found, and are now watchlisted by CNHP. Other species that occupy these slopes are monkshood (*Aconitum columbianum*), giant red Indian paintbrush (*Castilleja miniata*), Parry's thistle (*Cirsium parryi*), tall larkspur (*Delphinium barbeyi*), orange sneezeweed (*Dugaldia hoopesii*), fireweed (*Epilobium angustifolium*), fireweed (*Chamerion danielsii*), blue wildrye (*Elymus glaucus*), large mountain fleabane (*Erigeron coulteri*), eltro (*Heracleum sphondylium* ssp. *montanum*), Fendler's waterleaf (*Hydrophyllum fendleri*), osha (*Ligusticum porteri*), chiming bells (*Mertensia ciliata*) and tall ragwort (*Senecio serra*). A small narrow stream hosted a similar suite of species, typical of streamside vegetation in the San Juans, dominated by bittercress (*Cardamine cordifolia*), chiming bells and arrowleaf groundsel (*Senecio triangularis*). Other species here included monkshood (*Aconitum columbianum*), rose paintbrush (*Castilleja rhexifolia*), Hornemann's willowherb (*Epilobium hornemannii*), large mountain fleabane (*Erigeron coulteri*), fowl mannagrass (*Glyceria striata*), nodding ragwort (*Ligularia bigelovii*), brook saxifrage (*Micranthes odontoloma*), cowbane (*Oxypolis fendleri*), Whipple penstemon (*Penstemon whippleanus*), towering Jacob's ladder (*Polemonium foliosissimum*), wolf currant (*Ribes wolffii*), and elderberry (*Sambucus racemosa*).

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 01/30/2004
Designer Lyon, M.J.

Boundary Justification

The boundary is drawn to enclose two element occurrences in close proximity as well as some of the upstream area that provides the necessary hydrologic regime for the persistence of these elements.

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Primary Area 394.93 Acres

159.82 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B5: General Biodiversity Interest

Biodiversity Significance Comments

The site supports a fair (C-ranked) example of a plant community, *Cardamine cordifolia* - *Mertensia ciliata*, that is globally apparently secure (G4/S4).

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>			
24679	<i>Cardamine cordifolia</i> - <i>Mertensia ciliata</i> Herbaceous Vegetation	Alpine Wetlands	G4	S4	Yes

REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
184581	Lyon, P. 2003. Colorado Natural Heritage Program La Plata County Biological Assessment.

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date 01/01/2004

Version Author Lyon, M.J.

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