

# Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Sheephorn Creek at Radium

Site Code S.USCOHP\*26031

## IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 2332 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 395750N  
State Colorado Longitude 1063130W

<u>Quad Code</u>	<u>Quad Name</u>
39106-H4	Sheephorn Mountain
40106-A4	Kremmling
39106-H5	Radium

## County

Grand (CO)

<u>Watershed Code</u>	<u>Watershed Name</u>
14010001	Colorado headwaters

## SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	7,360.00 Feet	2,243.33 Meters
Maximum Elevation	7,500.00 Feet	2,286.00 Meters

## Site Description

The Sheephorn Creek at Radium site is located in southwestern Grand County. Trough Road (CR 1) follows the Colorado River as it flows southwest to Radium. General geology consists of metamorphic rocks of the Precambrian Age, specifically granitic rocks of 1,700 MYA (Tweto 1979). Soils vary from brown loams (Forella) to cobbly loam (Dahlquist-Stunner) (USDA, NRCS 1994). Sheephorn Creek, a Colorado River tributary, bisects the site. Vegetation is dominated by pinon pine (*Pinus edulis*), Utah juniper (*Juniperus osteosperma*), and Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) with skunkbrush (*Rhus trilobata*). The shrub layer consists of mountain sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata* ssp. *vaseyana*) and yellow rabbitbrush (*Chrysothamnus viscidiflorus*). The forb and graminoid cover is dominated by mat penstemon (*Penstemon caespitosa*), Watson's penstemon (*P. watsonii*), Rocky Mountain penstemon (*P. strictus*), Harrington beardtongue (*P. harringtonii*), longleaf phlox (*Phlox longifolia*), needle-and-thread grass (*Hesperostipa comata*), rice grass (*Achnatherum hymenoides*) and bluebunch wheatgrass (*Pseudoroegneria spicata*).

## Key Environmental Factors

Pierre and shale soils can be indicators for Harrington beardtongue (*Penstemon harringtonii*) locations.

## Climate Description

Typical high mountain park weather with very cold, windy winters and dry summers with late summer rains.

## Land Use History

No Data

## Cultural Features

No Data

## SITE DESIGN

Site Map Y - Yes Mapped Date 02/01/2006  
Designer Culver, D.R.

## Boundary Justification

The boundaries extend from McPhee Gulch north to Inspiration Point pullout on Trough Road. The boundaries are drawn to capture the species and its pollinators and potential habitat for expansion. Private property is included in the boundaries, however, only public lands were surveyed.

Primary Area	5,626.75 Acres	2,277.07 Hectares
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## SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

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## Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site supports one excellent to good and one fair (AB and C-ranked) occurrence of the globally vulnerable (G3/S3) Harrington beardtongue (*Penstemon harringtonii*). Harrington beardtongue is known only from Colorado. It has been hypothesized that Harrington beardtongue may peak every 4 to 5 years due to its short-lived perennial life cycle. This may explain the drastic change in numbers of individuals seen over the years (NatureServe 2005).

**Other Values Rank** V3 - Moderate values

## Other Values Comments

The area is known for access to the Colorado River for rafters and kayakers.

## LAND MANAGEMENT ISSUES

### Land Use Comments

No Data

### Natural Hazard Comments

No Data

### Exotics Comments

No Data

### Offsite

No Data

### Information Needs

In 1990, populations showed evidence of predation by a beetle. The effects are unknown.

## 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>
19662	<i>Penstemon harringtonii</i>	Harrington beardtongue	G3	S3	No
19662	<i>Penstemon harringtonii</i>	Harrington beardtongue	G3	S3	Yes

## REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
193632	Culver, D.R. and Jones, J.R. 2006. Final Report: Survey of Critical Biological Resources in Grand County. Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Fort Collins, CO.
193578	NatureServe. 2005. NatureServe Explorer: An online encyclopedia of life [web application]. Version 4.6. NatureServe, Arlington, Virginia. Available <a href="http://www.natureserve.org/explorer">http://www.natureserve.org/explorer</a> . (Accessed: December 8, 2005 ).
192747	Tweto, O. 1979. Geologic Map of Colorado, 1:500,000. United States Geological Survey, Department of Interior, and Geologic Survey of Colorado, Denver, CO.
193653	U.S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service. 1994. State Soil Geographic (STATSGO) database for Colorado. Fort Worth, TX.

## ADDITIONAL TOPICS

### Additional Topics

No Data

## VERSION

**Version Date** 02/01/2006  
**Version Author** Culver, D.R.

## Disclaimer

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