

# Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Snow Spur Tributary

Site Code S.USCOHP\*25290

## IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 2175 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 374641N  
State Colorado Longitude 1075414W

Quad Code Quad Name  
37107-G8 Mount Wilson

County  
Dolores (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name  
14030002 Upper Dolores

## SITE DESCRIPTION

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

### Site Description

The site encompasses an unnamed tributary to Snow Spur Creek southwest of Sheep Mountain, in the northeast portion of Dolores County. Springs discharge at the base of talus slopes forming several small channels that eventually converge. Organic soils have formed in the meadow as a result of the perennial water. This subalpine wet meadow is dominated by an herbaceous canopy, with plane leaf willow (*Salix planifolia*) and wolf willow (*Salix wolfii*) occurring in low stature (prostrate to 35 cm tall). Tufted hairgrass (*Deschampsia caespitosa*) and sheep sedge (*Carex illota*) dominate the herbaceous layer. Associated graminoids include bluejoint reedgrass (*Calamagrostis canadensis*), inland bluegrass (*Poa interior*), water sedge (*Carex aquatilis*), and alpine timothy (*Phleum alpinum*). Associated forbs include fringed gentian (*Gentianopsis thermalis*), elephant head lousewort (*Pedicularis groenlandica*), star gentian (*Swertia perennis*), rose crown (*Clementsia rhodantha*), alpine false spring parsley (*Pseudocymopterus montanus*), cowbane (*Oxypolis fendleri*), Jacob's ladder (*Polemonium foliosissimum*) and others. Mosses are frequent on the surface of the soil. The soil pit documented peat accumulation of 42 cm and muck below this. Uplands are dominated by spruce - fir (*Picea engelmannii* - *Abies lasiocarpa*) forests and talus slopes. Soil pit: Oi = 2 cm deep; Oe = 40 cm deep; Oa = 2 cm+ as far as reached with shovel; free standing water at 35 cm deep; soil saturated to the surface. Water: pH: 7.6, PDS: 4.1 at 100 mcs/cm temp: 12.

### 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 11/19/2004  
Designer March, M.A.

### Boundary Justification

The boundary encompasses the element occurrences and immediate adjacent area to buffer hydrologic processes necessary for the viability of the elements. It should be noted that the hydrologic processes necessary to the viability of the elements are not fully contained by the site boundary. The boundary is thought to provide a buffer from direct disturbance, such as heavy grazing, where surface runoff may contribute excess nutrients, sediment and weed invasion.

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Primary Area 302.67 Acres

122.49 Hectares

## SITE SIGNIFICANCE

**Biodiversity Significance Rank** B4: Moderate Biodiversity Significance

### Biodiversity Significance Comments

The site supports a good (B-ranked) occurrence of the subalpine wet meadow, sheep sedge (*Carex illota*) herbaceous vegetation whose global rank is unknown at this time (GUQ/S2) and a good (B-ranked) occurrence of the apparently globally secure (G4/S4) subalpine wet meadow, tufted hairgrass (*Deschampsia caespitosa*) herbaceous vegetation.

**Other Values Rank** No Data

### Other Values Comments

The wet meadow is defined as a fen due to the presence of organic soils at a depth of more than 40 cm.

## 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>			
24012	<i>Deschampsia caespitosa</i> Herbaceous Vegetation	Mesic Alpine Meadow	G4	S4	No
21256	<i>Carex illota</i> Herbaceous Vegetation	Alpine Wetlands	GUQ	S2	Yes

## REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
192742	March, M.A. 2005. Final Report: Natural Heritage Wetland Inventory of Dolores County. Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Fort Collins, CO.

## ADDITIONAL TOPICS

### Additional Topics

No Data

## VERSION

**Version Date** 11/19/2004

**Version Author** March, M.A.

## Disclaimer

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