

# Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Taylor Pass

Site Code S.USCOHP\*15848

## IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 1414 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 390019N  
State Colorado Longitude 1064630W

<u>Quad Code</u>	<u>Quad Name</u>
38106-H7	Pearl Pass
39106-A7	Hayden Peak

## County

Pitkin (CO)  
Gunnison (CO)

<u>Watershed Code</u>	<u>Watershed Name</u>
14010004	Roaring Fork
14020001	East-Taylor

## SITE DESCRIPTION

<b>Minimum Elevation</b>	11,000.00	<b>Feet</b>	3,352.80	<b>Meters</b>
<b>Maximum Elevation</b>	13,500.00	<b>Feet</b>	4,114.80	<b>Meters</b>

## Site Description

The ridges south and west of Taylor Pass are characterized by alpine meadows, willow carrs, scree and talus slopes, and rock outcrops. Dominant species include krumholtz Engelmann spruce (*Picea engelmannii*), willows (*Salix brachycarpa* and *Salix nivalis*), alpine avens (*Geum rossii*), cinquefoil (*Potentilla* sp.), alpine buckwheat (*Bistort bistortoides*), grasses (*Poa alpina*), sedges (*Kobresia myosuroides*), fleabane (*Erigeron pinnatisectus*), and mountain dryad (*Dryas octopetala*). Most of the site is above timberline, though some subalpine areas at the top of the Express Creek drainage are included. Rock outcrops show sedimentary layering and steep slopes are covered by talus. Stunning views are afforded of the Sawatch Range, Elk Range, and Taylor Park in the Gunnison Basin.

## 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 01/22/2007  
Designer Lyon, M.J.

## Boundary Justification

The boundary is drawn to include the occurrences and adjacent potential habitat along the alpine ridges to allow the rare plants to move into suitable habitat over time. This area is also likely to be sufficient in protecting the occurrences from direct disturbances and erosion.

Primary Area 2,002.04 Acres 810.20 Hectares

## SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B2: Very High Biodiversity Significance

## Biodiversity Significance Comments

The site supports a good (B-ranked) occurrence of the globally vulnerable (G3/S3) Colorado tansy-aster

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(*Machaeranthera coloradoensis*), a good (B-ranked) occurrence of the globally vulnerable (G3/S2) Leadville milkvetch (*Astragalus molybdenus*) and a good (B-ranked) occurrence of the globally vulnerable (G3/S3) thick-leaf whitlow-grass (*Draba crassa*), as well as eight other globally or state-rare plant species. This site includes the highest concentration of rare plant species found in the Roaring Fork Watershed and the only known location for alpine arnica (*Arnica angustifolia* ssp. *tomentosa*) in the state of Colorado.

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

Four state rare plant species have not been revisited since the early 1980s, including the only Colorado occurrence of alpine arnica (*Arnica angustifolia* ssp. *tomentosa*). These occurrences need to be updated and mapped more accurately.

## ASSOCIATED ELEMENTS OF BIODIVERSITY

Element State ID	State Scientific Name	State Common Name	Global Rank	State Rank	Driving Site Rank
23501	<i>Braya glabella</i> var. <i>glabella</i>	arctic braya	G5TNR	S1	No
20190	<i>Astragalus molybdenus</i>	Leadville milkvetch	G3	S2	Yes
16688	<i>Askellia nana</i>	dwarf hawksbeard	G5	S2	No
21274	<i>Draba crassa</i>	thick-leaf whitlow-grass	G3G4	S3	Yes
23501	<i>Braya glabella</i> var. <i>glabella</i>	arctic braya	G5TNR	S1	No
17009	<i>Arnica alpina</i> var. <i>tomentosa</i>	alpine arnica	G5T5	S1	No
23377	<i>Draba oligosperma</i>	woods draba	G5	S2	No
23750	<i>Draba globosa</i>	rockcress draba	G3	S1	No
23921	<i>Machaeranthera coloradoensis</i>	Colorado tansy-aster	G3	S3	Yes
21481	<i>Erigeron lanatus</i>	woolly fleabane	G3G4	S1	No
23501	<i>Braya glabella</i> var. <i>glabella</i>	arctic braya	G5TNR	S1	No
17281	<i>Draba porsildii</i>	Porsild's whitlow-grass	G3G4	S1	No
23750	<i>Draba globosa</i>	rockcress draba	G3	S1	No
23986	<i>Physaria alpina</i>	Avery Peak twinpod	G2	S2	No

## REFERENCES

Reference ID	Full Citation
194492	Lyon, M. 2006. Colorado Natural Heritage Program Field Surveys.

## ADDITIONAL TOPICS

### Additional Topics

Original site design by Spackman, S.C. 1999-05-05.

## VERSION

Version Date	01/22/2007
Version Author	Lyon, M.J.

## Disclaimer

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