

# Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Teller Mountain

Site Code S.USCOHP\*1700

## IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 1226 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 393154N  
State Colorado Longitude 1055147W

### Quad Code Quad Name

39105-E7 Montezuma  
39105-E8 Keystone

### County

### Watershed Code Watershed Name

14010002 Blue  
10190002 Upper South Platte

## SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation 11,400.00 Feet 3,475.00 Meters  
Maximum Elevation 12,600.00 Feet 3,840.00 Meters

### Site Description

Teller Mountain extends for approximately 2 miles as a long flat ridge following the Continental Divide. This flat ridgetop (12,400 feet) fingers out between four major drainages (Deer Creek, North Fork of the South Platte River, Snake River, and Middle Fork of the Swan River) and then drops 1,000 feet to the valley floors. There are two summits on Teller Mountain: one reaches 12,615 feet, and the other just below at 12,602 feet. The ridge is predominantly covered by dry alpine meadow communities which support three state rare plant species. The cliffs and cirques below the ridge are also excellent rare plant habitat and are known to support three other rare plant species. This site includes approximately 1,229 acres.

### Key Environmental Factors

No Data

### Climate Description

No Data

### Land Use History

There was historic mining in the area.

### Cultural Features

No Data

## SITE DESIGN

Site Map P - Partial Mapped Date 09/12/1994

Designer Pague, C.A.

### Boundary Justification

This boundary is drawn for the consideration of the following: 1) protection of the occurrences from direct impacts such as trampling or other surface disturbances; 2) providing suitable habitat where additional individuals can become established over time; and 3) including representation from each of the local alpine plant communities which may support a pollinator for one or more of the rare plant species. The boundary was delineated using a 1988 National Aerial Photography Program 1:40,000 infrared aerial photograph following a 1997 site visit by CNHP botanists.

Primary Area 1,229.39 Acres 497.52 Hectares

## SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

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## Biodiversity Significance Comments

The Teller Mountain site is botanically significant and includes occurrences of globally and state rare plant species. A fair example of a globally rare mustard, Grays Peak whitlow-grass (*Draba grayana*), is the species of primary concern. Also of global importance is Weber saussurea (*Saussurea weberi*) which is a globally rare species with 21 known locations, all in Summit and Park counties. This site contains two locations of the alpine poppy (*Papaver kluanensis*) in two distinct habitats. The alpine poppy is typically known from steep scree slopes, but occasionally is found in alpine meadows. This site contains one occurrence in each habitat type, making this site unique for this species. Found with the alpine poppy is the best occurrence known of sea pink (*Armeria maritima* ssp. *sibirica*) in Summit County. Along with the sea pink, another state rare species which is found on the steep scree slopes adjacent to the alpine meadow, is the northern rockcress (*Draba borealis*). Porter feathergrass (*Ptilagrostis mongholica* ssp. *porteri*), a globally rare plant subspecies, and the Rocky Mountain snowlover (*Chionophila jamesii*), a watchlisted species by CNHP, are also found within this site. Adding to the significance of this site, is a state rare butterfly species which has only been historically reported in the general area.

**Other Values Rank** V3 - Moderate values

## Other Values Comments

This site includes scenic views of the Tenmile Range and is an excellent condition alpine meadow. Gold and silver ores known from here.

## LAND MANAGEMENT ISSUES

### Land Use Comments

Recreation, including mountain biking, dirt bikes, and 4WD vehicles are using the area. Currently these activities seem to be limited to the roads and are not a concern to the elements.

### Natural Hazard Comments

There are very steep unstable cliffs in the area which may be dangerous.

### Exotics Comments

Dandelion is present lower on the slopes and along the roads. This should be controlled before it spreads to the ridgetop.

### Offsite

Hydrological processes originating outside of the original planning boundary, including water quality, quantity, and timing, must be managed to maintain population and community viability.

### Information Needs

No Data

## 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> |
| 19637           | <i>Saussurea weberi</i>                    | Weber saussurea           | G2G3          | S2           | Yes              |
| 19637           | <i>Saussurea weberi</i>                    | Weber saussurea           | G2G3          | S2           | No               |
| 18546           | <i>Armeria scabra</i> ssp. <i>sibirica</i> | sea pink                  | G5T5          | S1           | No               |
| 17794           | <i>Draba grayana</i>                       | Gray's Peak whitlow-grass | G2            | S2           | No               |
| 19134           | <i>Draba borealis</i>                      | northern rockcress        | G4            | S2           | No               |
| 19684           | <i>Ptilagrostis porteri</i>                | Porter feathergrass       | G2            | S2           | No               |

## REFERENCES

| <u>Reference ID</u> | <u>Full Citation</u> |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| -                   | No Data              |

## ADDITIONAL TOPICS

### Additional Topics

No Data

## VERSION

|                       |                |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| <b>Version Date</b>   | 02/15/2001     |
| <b>Version Author</b> | Spackman, S.C. |

## Disclaimer

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