

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name The Grottos

Site Code S.USCOHP*4213

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 765 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 390740N
State Colorado Longitude 1064156W

<u>Quad Code</u>	<u>Quad Name</u>
39106-A6	New York Peak
39106-B6	Thimble Rock

County
Pitkin (CO)

<u>Watershed Code</u>	<u>Watershed Name</u>
14010004	Roaring Fork

SITE DESCRIPTION

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

Site Description

The PCA includes a large rock outcrop which stretches for at least 2 miles in an east-west direction, paralleling Highway 82 and the Roaring Fork River. The outcrop includes large rock faces, overhangs, and large boulder fields and talus slopes at the base of the cliffs (9400-11,400 feet). There are small seeps which maintain a moist to dripping micro-climate on the rock. This habitat creates hanging gardens which include the rare plant species, hanging garden sullivantia (*Sullivantia hapemanii* var. *purpusii*). The surrounding vegetation is mainly composed of oceanspray (*Holodiscus bicolor*). Stands of spruce-fir (*Picea engelmannii*-*Abies lasiocarpa*), lodgepole (*Pinus contorta*), aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) and Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) occur in the uplands surrounding the site. Approximately 800 acres are included in this site.

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 04/18/1996
Designer Fayette, K.K.

Boundary Justification

There appears to be abundant potential habitat for this species in this area which is not accessible for surveys. The boundary includes the element and this potential habitat, as well as a portion of each of the dominant plant communities immediately adjacent to the occurrence. These adjacent communities act as an ecological buffer, and provide landscape context within which to manage and protect the elements.

Primary Area 1,174.61 Acres 475.35 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

The globally-rare hanging garden sullivantia (*Sullivantia hapemanii* var. *purpusii*) occurs here in good-quality, but threatened habitat. This subspecies is restricted to west-central Colorado. This is the only known

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name The Grottos

Site Code S.USCOHP*4213

occurrence of this subspecies in the Roaring Fork River Valley.

Other Values Rank No Data

Other Values Comments

No Data

LAND MANAGEMENT ISSUES

Land Use Comments

Recreational climbing is the main use in the area.

Natural Hazard Comments

No Data

Exotics Comments

No Data

Offsite

This site would be effected by the widening of Hwy 82.

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>
22214	<i>Sullivantia hapemanii</i> var. <i>purpusii</i>	Hanging Garden sullivantia	G3T3	S3	Yes

REFERENCES

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

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date	05/05/1999
Version Author	Spackman, S.C.

Disclaimer

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name The Grottos

Site Code S.USCOHP*4213

These data are a product and property of Colorado State University, Colorado Natural Heritage Program (CNHP). These data are strictly "on loan" and should be considered "works in progress". Data maintained in the Colorado Natural Heritage Program database are an integral part of ongoing research at CSU and reflect the observations of many scientists, institutions and our current state of knowledge. These data are acquired from various sources, with varying levels of accuracy, and are continually being updated and revised. Many areas have never been surveyed and the absence of data in any particular geographic area does not necessarily mean that species or ecological communities of concern are not present. These data should not be regarded as a substitute for on-site surveys required for environmental assessments. Absence of evidence is NOT evidence of absence. Absence of any data does not mean that other resources of special concern do not occur, but rather CNHP files do not currently contain information to document this presence. CNHP is not responsible for whether other, non-CNHP data providers have secured landowner permission for data collected.

These data are provided for non-commercial purposes only. Under no circumstances are data to be distributed in any fashion to outside parties. To ensure accurate application of data, tabular and narrative components must be evaluated in conjunction with spatial components. Failure to do so constitutes a misuse of the data. The Colorado Natural Heritage Program shall have no liability or responsibility to the data users, or any other person or entity with respect to liability, loss, or damage caused or alleged to be caused directly or indirectly by the data, including but not limited to any interruption of service, loss of business, anticipatory profits or indirect, special, or consequential damages resulting from the use of operation of the data. Data users hereby agree to hold CNHP, Colorado State University, and the State of Colorado harmless from any claim, demand, cause of action, loss, damage or expense from or related to data users use of or reliance on the data, regardless of the cause or nature thereof, and even in the event that such cause is attributable to the negligence or misconduct of CNHP.

These data are provided on an as-is basis, as-available basis without warranties of any kind, expressed or implied, INCLUDING (BUT NOT LIMITED TO) WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY, FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE, AND NON-INFRINGEMENT. Although CNHP maintains high standards of data quality control, CNHP, Colorado State University, and the State of Colorado further expressly disclaim any warranty that the data are error-free or current as of the date supplied