

# Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Trail Mountain at Spirit Mountain Ranch

Site Code S.USCOHP\*25854

## IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 2279 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 401115N  
State Colorado Longitude 1055729W

Quad Code Quad Name  
40105-B8 Trail Mountain

County  
Grand (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name  
14010001 Colorado headwaters

## SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	8,650.00 Feet	2,636.52 Meters
Maximum Elevation	8,985.00 Feet	2,738.63 Meters

### Site Description

Occurrence is an old growth quaking aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) forest on the west side of Trail Mountain. Dominant understory consists of russet buffaloberry (*Shepherdia canadensis*). Populus stand is said to be one of the oldest most continuous stands in the area. Other common shrubs include common juniper (*Juniperus communis*), Wood's rose (*Rosa woodsii*), and kinnikinnick (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*). The herbaceous layer is not dominated by any one species. Parry's goldenrod (*Oreochrysum parryi*), lupine (*Lupinus* sp.), and Geyer's sedge (*Carex geyeri*) are common. Geology consists of igneous rocks of the Tertiary Age, specifically upper Tertiary intrusive rocks and basalt flows. Soils are sandy loams with a thick organic layer and dense litter/duff from leaf fall. Lodgepole pine (*Pinus contorta*) and Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) are both present in the canopy layer, but do not dominate in any areas. Stand is mainly privately owned and the owners have no intention of impacting or developing the occurrence.

### Key Environmental Factors

Key environmental factors influencing the biota of the site include elevation, natural disturbances, slope and aspect, and snow pack.

### Climate Description

Climate likely follows patterns typical of this region of Colorado, being generally xeric throughout the year, with wet spring seasons and late summer "monsoons".

### Land Use History

No Data

### Cultural Features

No Data

## SITE DESIGN

Site Map Y - Yes Mapped Date 12/28/2005

Designer Jones, J.R.

### Boundary Justification

Boundaries include western portions of Trail Mountain and are drawn to encompass those environmental factors necessary to maintain species composition such as soil development, slope, and natural disturbances. Boundaries do not include all ecological processes influencing the site. Activities along adjacent slopes such as improper grazing, water diversion, clear-cutting, and development may impact site biota.

Primary Area 96.08 Acres 38.88 Hectares

## SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B4: Moderate Biodiversity Significance

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## Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site is drawn for a good (B-ranked) occurrence of the state vulnerable (G3G4/S3?) community, quaking aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) / russet buffaloberry (*Shepherdia canadensis*) forest. This community type is probably more common than the global rank implies (most likely a G4 instead of a G3G4).

Other Values Rank V2 - High values

## Other Values Comments

The site provides high quality other values including wildlife habitat, open space, and aesthetics. It is one of few high quality examples of old growth aspen forest in the area.

## LAND MANAGEMENT ISSUES

### Land Use Comments

Predominant land use is for open space and recreational use by property owners and guests.

### Natural Hazard Comments

No Data

### Exotics Comments

Common dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*) is present along edges of forest, but is not common within the forested areas.

### Offsite

Off-site considerations include logging of adjacent forests and beetle infestation of lodgepole pines.

### 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>
24945	<i>Populus tremuloides</i> / <i>Shepherdia canadensis</i> Forest	Persistent Aspen Forests	G3G4	S3?	Yes

## REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
160903	Carsey, K., D. Cooper, K. Decker, D. Culver, and G. Kittel. 2003. Statewide wetlands classification and characterization: Wetland plant associations of Colorado. Prepared for Colorado Department of Natural Resources, Denver, CO by Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Fort Collins, CO.
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.
160140	Dorn, R. D. 1997. Rocky Mountain Region Willow Identification Field Guide. Renewable Resources R2-RR-97-01. Denver, CO: USDA, Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Region. 107p.
167224	Hurd, E.G., N.L. Shaw, J. Mastroguiseppe, L.C. Smithman, and S. Goodrich. 1998. Field Guide to Intermountain Sedges. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rocky Mountain Research Station, Ogden, UT.
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.
193553	USDA, NRCS. 2005. The PLANTS Database, Version 3.5 ( <a href="http://plants.usda.gov">http://plants.usda.gov</a> ). Data compiled from various sources by Mark W. Skinner. National Plant Data Center < <a href="http://npdc.usda.gov/">http://npdc.usda.gov/</a> >, Baton Rouge, LA 70874-4490 USA. Accessed 2005.
172684	Weber, W.A. and R.C. Wittmann. 2001. Colorado Flora: Western Slope, Third Edition. University Press of Colorado, Niwot, CO.

## ADDITIONAL TOPICS

### Additional Topics

No Data

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## VERSION

Version Date 12/28/2005

Version Author Jones, J.R.

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