

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Twining Peak

Site Code S.USCOHP*10080

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 133 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 390802N
State Colorado Longitude 1063354W

<u>Quad Code</u>	<u>Quad Name</u>
39106-B5	Mount Champion
39106-A5	Independence Pass

County

Pitkin (CO)
Lake (CO)

<u>Watershed Code</u>	<u>Watershed Name</u>
14010004	Roaring Fork
11020001	Arkansas Headwaters

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	12,200.00	Feet	3,719.00	Meters
Maximum Elevation	13,700.00	Feet	4,176.00	Meters

Site Description

Twining Peak rises to 13,700 feet and is crossed by the Continental Divide. The headwaters of the Roaring Fork River run along the western edge of the site. Dramatic views are afforded of Mt. Capitol, Mt. Sopris, and the Maroon Bells. Along the southern end there is a series of small ponds, willow patches, and marshy areas dominated by white marsh-marigold (*Caltha leptosepala*), as well as Highway 82 at the Independence Pass summit area. The slopes at the lower elevations are sparsely vegetated with dwarf clover (*Trifolium nanum*), yellow paintbrush (*Castilleja occidentalis*) and Ross' avens (*Geum rossii*). At the higher elevations, there are scree slopes, fell fields, rock gardens and large boulder outcrops interspersed. The western slopes of Twining Peak support diamondleaf willow - barren ground willow (*Salix planifolia* - *Salix brachycarpa*) shrublands with scattered Engelmann spruce (*Picea engelmannii*) that just reach above treeline, and open wet and dry alpine meadows. The upper elevations are rocky with talus and boulder fields with scattered alpine meadows. There are some large patches with cryptogamic soil crusts. The site is approximately 1,400 acres and ranges in elevation from 12,200 feet to the summit of Twining Peak (13,700 feet).

Key Environmental Factors

No Data

Climate Description

No Data

Land Use History

Historically, mining was prevalent in the area, however, it is unknown if it occurred within the site boundaries.

Cultural Features

No Data

SITE DESIGN

Site Map Y - Yes Mapped Date 01/22/2007
Designer Lyon, M.J.

Boundary Justification

This boundary is drawn to 1) protect the occurrences from direct impacts such as trampling or other surface disturbances; 2) provide suitable habitat where additional individuals can become established over time; and 3) include representation from each of the local alpine plant communities which may support a pollinator for one or more of the rare plant species. The upslope cliffs, rock outcrops, fell fields, and scree slopes were included to protect the occurrences from unnatural erosional disturbances. The downslope areas of suitable

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habitat were included to allow for the spread of the species over time.

Primary Area 1,437.76 Acres 581.84 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site includes occurrences of three globally rare plant species: an excellent (A-ranked) occurrence of the globally vulnerable (G3/S3) thick-leaf whitlow-grass (*Draba crassa*), a good (B-ranked) occurrence of the globally vulnerable (G3/S3) Colorado Divide whitlow-grass (*Draba streptobrachia*) and a good (B-ranked) occurrence of the globally vulnerable (G3/S1) rockcross draba (*Draba globosa*). There is also an historical occurrence of the globally imperiled (G2/S2) Gray's Peak whitlow-grass (*Draba grayana*). The population extent of Gray's Peak whitlow-grass needs to be revisited and more accurately mapped. The alpine habitat is in excellent condition.

Other Values Rank No Data

Other Values Comments

No Data

LAND MANAGEMENT ISSUES

Land Use Comments

No Data

Natural Hazard Comments

Talus slopes and boulder fields can be unstable.

Exotics Comments

No Data

Offsite

The Lost Man trail is wet and causing hikers to create more and more new routes which is widening the trail considerably. Trail improvements may be considered.

Information Needs

Check with the Rocky Mountain Herbarium to verify the 1990 *Draba grayana* specimen at this location. Metal scraps of unknown purpose are scattered on the lower slopes of the mountain. If this material is for some future construction, the impacts should be considered.

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>
21234	<i>Draba streptobrachia</i>	Colorado Divide whitlow-grass	G3	S3	Yes
21274	<i>Draba crassa</i>	thick-leaf whitlow-grass	G3G4	S3	Yes
17794	<i>Draba grayana</i>	Gray's Peak whitlow-grass	G2	S2	No
23750	<i>Draba globosa</i>	rockcross draba	G3	S1	Yes
19134	<i>Draba borealis</i>	northern rockcross	G4	S2	No

REFERENCES

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

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

Original site design by Fayette, K.K. and S.C. Spackman. 1997-08-16.

VERSION

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

Disclaimer

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