

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Upper Morgans Gulch

Site Code S.USCOHP*27554

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 2563 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 384326N
State Colorado Longitude 1062447W

Quad Code Quad Name
38106-F4 Cumberland Pass

County
Chaffee (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name
11020001 Arkansas Headwaters

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	12,000.00 Feet	3,657.60 Meters
Maximum Elevation	12,900.00 Feet	3,931.92 Meters

Site Description

Upper Morgans Gulch is located at the headwaters of Morgans Gulch just east of the Continental Divide and is typical of the Sawatch Range with shallow, granitic soils. Glacially carved lakes are scattered throughout. The site consists of typical alpine vegetation that has adapted to intense solar radiation, extreme cold, and dry, desiccating winds. The vegetation is dominated by Ross' avens (*Geum rossii*), boreal sagebrush (*Artemisia arctica*), dry sedges (*Carex elynoides*, *C. foena*, *C. rupestris*), alpine clovers (*Trifolium dasyphyllum*, *T. nanum*), and several alpine grasses (*Deschampsia cespitosa*, *Trisetum spicatum*, *Festuca brachyphyllum*). Animals that are known to utilize this site and other alpine areas include American Pipit (*Anthus rubescens*), Brown-capped Rosy Finch (*Leucosticte australis*), and White-tailed Ptarmigan (*Lagopus muta*).

Key Environmental Factors

No Data

Climate Description

The site receives an average of 300 days of sunshine each year. A typical summer day is sunny, in the high 60's to low 70's with evening temperatures in the 30's or 40's. Annual rainfall is 10 inches and snowfall 30 inches, with more in the higher elevations.

Land Use History

No Data

Cultural Features

No Data

SITE DESIGN

Site Map Y - Yes Mapped Date 01/16/2009

Designer Culver, D.R.

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the occurrences and a buffer against direct disturbance. The natural processes are not completely contained in the boundary, and off-site activities within the larger area have the potential to impact the rare plant populations.

Primary Area 501.69 Acres 203.03 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B4: Moderate Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site supports a fair (C-ranked) occurrence of the globally vulnerable (G3/S3) Colorado Divide whitlow-grass (*Draba streptobrachia*), a fair (C-ranked) occurrence of the globally vulnerable (G3/S3)

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thick-leaf whitlow-grass (*Draba crassa*) and an extant occurrence of the state rare (G5/S2) woods draba (*Draba oligosperma*).

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

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>
21274	<i>Draba crassa</i>	thick-leaf whitlow-grass	G3G4	S3	Yes
23377	<i>Draba oligosperma</i>	woods draba	G5	S2	No
21234	<i>Draba streptobrachia</i>	Colorado Divide whitlow-grass	G3	S3	Yes

REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
198290	Culver, D.R., D. Malone, S.L. Neid, and J. Handwerk. 2009. Final Report: Survey of Critical Biological Resources in Chaffee County. Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Fort Collins, CO.

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date 01/16/2009
Version Author Culver, D.R.

Disclaimer

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