

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Valley View Hot Springs

Site Code S.USCOHP1*2093

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 1347 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>
1956	S.USCOHP*5778	Sangre de Cristo

LOCATORS

Nation United States Latitude 381141N
State Colorado Longitude 1054854W

Quad Code Quad Name
38105-B7 Valley View Hot Springs

County
Saguache (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name
13010003 San Luis

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	8,600.00 Feet	2,621.28 Meters
Maximum Elevation	9,300.00 Feet	2,834.64 Meters

Site Description

The Valley View Hot Springs site is located at the base of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains in the northeastern part of Saguache County. The hot springs are a series of springs at the base of the mountains. These springs form a small creek that cuts through an alluvial fan. At least in 1984 this creek flowed approximately 1 mile or more into the San Luis Valley bottom, but due to changes in water management, the creek now stops short. This change has caused the extirpation of a population of Rio Grande chub (*Gila pandora*). The main part of this site is a hot springs resort. The hot springs area is privately developed with a swimming pool, sauna, several hot spring pools, a campground, and riding stables. Most of the pools and creeks entering or exiting these pools are excellent habitat for the hot springs physa (a snail). Only the upper springs support much native vegetation with seep monkey flower (*Mimulus guttatus*), *Potamogeton*, and *Catabrosa aquatica* dominating. The lower springs and creek are comprised of more non-natives than native plants, including thistle (*Cirsium* spp.), clover (*Trifolium repens*), black medic (*Medicago lupulina*), Kentucky bluegrass (*Poa pratensis*) and more. Within this weedy vegetation we found a few individuals of the rare helleborine (*Epipactis gigantea*) and canyon bog orchid (*Platanthera sparsiflora* var. *ensifolia*). Orient mine, a large non-active mine just north of the Valley View Hot Springs Resort, is a very important roost site for the Brazilian free tailed bat, which use the hot springs pools for drinking and feeding. The site is approximately 360 acres ranging in elevation from 8,600 to 9,300 feet.

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 01/26/1998
Designer Rondeau, R.J.

Boundary Justification

This boundary is drawn to 1) protect the occurrences from direct impacts such as trampling or other surface disturbances; and 2) provide suitable habitat where additional individuals can become established over time. The boundary was delineated using 1988 and 1990 NAPP 1:40,000 infrared aerial photographs and satellite imagery and 7.5 minute USGS topographic maps.

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Primary Area 664.63 Acres

268.97 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B2: Very High Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

The Valley View Hot Springs site supports a large (A-ranked) population of the globally imperiled (G2Q/S2) Hot Springs physa (*Physa cupreonitens*), a rare snail limited to hot springs in Colorado. This snail has been found in Grand, Saguache, Fremont, and Mesa counties. In addition to this hot springs specialist, a rare orchid and a very large and healthy (A-ranked) occurrence of the globally imperiled (G2?/S2) xeric Western Slope pinon - juniper woodland (*Pinus edulis* - (*Juniperus monosperma*, *Juniperus osteosperma*) / *Hesperostipa comata*) are found here.

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 Rank</u>	<u>State Rank</u>	<u>Driving Site Rank</u>
<u>State ID</u>	<u>State Scientific Name</u>	<u>State Common Name</u>			
24556	<i>Pinus edulis</i> - (<i>Juniperus monosperma</i> , <i>Juniperus osteosperma</i>) / <i>Hesperostipa comata</i> Woodland	Xeric Western Slope Pinyon-Juniper Woodlands	G2?	S2	Yes
17626	<i>Epipactis gigantea</i>	helleborine	G4	S2S3	No
19202	<i>Physa cupreonitens</i>	Hot Springs Physa	G5Q	S2	No

REFERENCES

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

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date	01/26/1998
Version Author	Rondeau, R.J.

Disclaimer

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