

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Valley View

Site Code S.USCOHP*4975

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 2010 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 381152N
State Colorado Longitude 1054706W

Quad Code Quad Name
38105-B7 Valley View Hot Springs

County
Saguache (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name
13010003 San Luis

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	9,650.00 Feet	2,941.00 Meters
Maximum Elevation	11,750.00 Feet	3,581.00 Meters

Site Description

The Valley View site includes the slopes and stream bottom of Hot Springs Canyon. The south-facing slopes of the upper bowl of the canyon is dominated by bristle cone pine (*Pinus aristata*) forest with varying abundance of limber pine (*Pinus flexilis*) and aspen (*Populus tremuloides*). The north-facing slopes are densely forested with spruce (*Picea* spp.). Stream side vegetation is primarily dominated by an aspen overstory and a mesic forb understory. A few acres of Parry's oat grass (*Danthonia parryi*) with and without aspen were found near the lower parts of this site. Pinyon pine (*Pinus edulis*) and Gambel oak (*Quercus gambelii*) are found at the opening of the canyon near the trailhead. The alluvial fan at the end of the canyon is part of the Valley View Hot Springs site. Recreation is the primary use within the site, with a trail paralleling the stream bottom. This trail was a 4-wheel drive road prior to wilderness designation. The site is virtually free from non-native plants except for the trail area and adjacent streamsides. Historic use included livestock grazing. Numerous fire scars can still be observed throughout the area. The site is about 700 acres in size, and ranges in elevation from about 9,650 to 11,750 feet (2,950-3,580 m).

Key Environmental Factors

No Data

Climate Description

No Data

Land Use History

No Data

Cultural Features

No Data

SITE DESIGN

Site Map P - Partial Mapped Date 02/16/1998
Designer Rondeau, R.J.

Boundary Justification

This site includes the extent of the bristle cone pine distribution within the canyon and adjacent potential habitat. The boundary was confirmed during a 1997 site visit by CNHP ecologists. The boundary was further verified using a 1988 NAPP 1:40,000 color infrared photograph.

Primary Area 710.90 Acres 287.69 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site includes an excellent example of a bristle cone pine/Thurber fescue plant community. Bristle cone

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pinus are fairly common in the upper part of the Closed Basin watershed. We found several occurrences of this type throughout the valley, yet this one stands out as an excellent example.

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>
24589	<i>Pinus aristata</i> / <i>Festuca thurberi</i> Woodland	Lower Montane Woodlands	G5	S2	Yes

REFERENCES

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

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date	02/16/1998
Version Author	Rondeau, R.J.

Disclaimer

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