

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name West Vasquez Pass

Site Code S.USCOHP*1212

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 1566 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 394729N
State Colorado Longitude 1055154W

Quad Code Quad Name
39105-G7 Berthoud Pass

County

Clear Creek (CO)
Grand (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name
10190004 Clear
14010001 Colorado headwaters

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation - Feet - Meters
Maximum Elevation - Feet - Meters

Site Description

The site is a pass just above timberline in E-W trending ridge. The portion just below treeline is forested with subalpine fir (*Abies lasiocarpa*) with a lush herbaceous layer. Many seeps and springs arise from the forest floor. There are areas of rock outcrops, *Deschampsia cespitosa* meadows, depressions with grayleaf willow (*Salix glauca*) and diamondleaf willow (*Salix planifolia*), several seepy/snowmelt areas with thick moss, *Mimulus guttatus* and *Primula parryi*, an area at base of rock outcrop with stands of *Eleocharis*, and small depressions with diamondleaf willow and *Carex* spp. On the north side of the pass is a fen with diamondleaf willow and a stand of water sedge (*Carex aquatilis*) with deep moss mats supporting many wetland species. Rock outcrops possibly support Rocky Mountain columbine (*Aquilegia saximontana*). Overall, it is a nice area with little human impacts.

Key Environmental Factors

No Data

Climate Description

No Data

Land Use History

Area was probably sheep grazed (1920's-1940's). Forest areas below were logged at some time.

Cultural Features

A probable pre-historic site was found (chalcedony flakes).

SITE DESIGN

Site Map P - Partial Mapped Date 09/12/1994
Designer Pague, C.A.

Boundary Justification

The primary boundary includes an element occurrence of Rocky Mountain columbine (*Aquilegia saximontana*). The habitat is very local - a single rock outcrop.

Primary Area 280.58 Acres 113.55 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B4: Moderate Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

The site supports a fair (C-ranked) occurrence of a globally rare (G3/S3) plant species, Rocky Mountain columbine (*Aquilegia saximontana*).

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Other Values Rank No Data

Other Values Comments

No Data

LAND MANAGEMENT ISSUES

Land Use Comments

Currently used by hikers and hunters with presently few impacts other than trails along divide and on north of pass (which could be primary game trails).

Natural Hazard Comments

Extremes of weather, careless hunters.

Exotics Comments

None apparent.

Offsite

West Fork Clear Creek has mining activities in the lower valley. Unless mineral deposits near the pass are developed, no off site impacts are likely.

Information Needs

Breeding population of boreal toad? Check fen on the N side and stream below for toad. The fen on the N side should be more thoroughly botanized.

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>
18092	<i>Aquilegia saximontana</i>	Rocky Mountain columbine	G3	S3	Yes

REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
162222	Reid, M.S. and C.A. Pague. 1992. Field Survey to West Vasquez Pass for Continental Divide Trail Route Evaluation.

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date 09/12/1994
Version Author Pague, C.A.

Disclaimer

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