

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name West Virginia Gulch

Site Code S.USCOHP*8465

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 1606 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 373337N
State Colorado Longitude 1073954W

Quad Code Quad Name

37107-E6 Mountain View Crest

County

La Plata (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name

14080104 Animas

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	11,480.00 Feet	3,499.00 Meters
Maximum Elevation	12,440.00 Feet	3,792.00 Meters

Site Description

The West Virginia Gulch site encompasses a 1.6-mile stretch of the gulch, and adjacent small wet depressional area in alpine tundra. The Colorado River cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarki pleuriticus*) at this location were rated A- for purity, based on morphology, although no genetic testing has been done on the population. During CNHP's 1994 riparian survey, researchers found a vigorous population of Altai cottongrass (*Eriophorum altaicum* var. *neogaena*) estimated at over 1,000 individuals in several patches. They noted that they were most abundant in standing water in areas with a high cover of mosses and little other competing vegetation.

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 04/11/1997

Designer Fayette, K.K. and C.C. Fleming

Boundary Justification

This site includes the occurrence and a buffer of similar habitat to protect against direct impacts such as trampling or erosional disturbances. The buffer will also provide suitable habitat where additional individuals can become established over time. The hydrology of the site is important to the element and should be considered during any modifications in the watershed. The boundary also encompasses the headwaters and its tributaries, extending to the downstream barrier. A 1,000 foot upland buffer is provided to limit direct physical disturbance and local hydrological alteration.

Primary Area 692.44 Acres 280.22 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B5: General Biodiversity Interest

Biodiversity Significance Comments

The site supports an excellent (B-ranked) occurrence of Altai cottongrass, a plant variety that is vulnerable (T3T4) globally and in Colorado (S3).

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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

[Fayette and Fleming 1997:] Hydrological processes originating outside of the planning boundary, including water quality, quantity, timing and flow must be managed to maintain site viability.

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>
21874	<i>Eriophorum altaicum</i> var. <i>neogaeum</i>	Altai cottongrass	G4?T3T4	S3	Yes

REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
184581	Lyon, P. 2003. Colorado Natural Heritage Program La Plata County Biological Assessment.
170844	Randolph, D., Smith, Kettler, Redders, Roy, and Aitken. 1994. San Juan National Forest Riparian Site Survey.

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

Other Heritage elements: *Oncorhynchus clarki pleuritius* (Colorado River Cutthroat Trout), G4T3/S3, un-ranked.

VERSION

Version Date	01/01/2004
Version Author	Lyon, M.J.

Disclaimer

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