

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Witter Peak

Site Code S.USCOHP*1218

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 749 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 394904N
State Colorado Longitude 1054308W

Quad Code Quad Name

39105-G6 Empire

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

This is an E-W trending ridge, all above 12,700 ft. The terrain is nearly flat to gently rolling. It is very windswept, with probably constant winds from the west across the divide. Vegetation is predominantly cushion plant communities with much *Silene acaulis*, *Paronychia pulvinata*, *Trifolium nanum*, *Acomostylis rossii*, *Carex rupestris*, and *Artemisia*. Much of the area is rocky fellfield, with some cliffs and bedrock outcrops on the south face. There are few apparent impacts from hikers. Snowshoe hare were seen. Wilson's Warblers found dead here. This is an interesting area due to flatness of terrain at such a high elevation. Access from the north is difficult due to steep terrain and exposure.

Key Environmental Factors

No Data

Climate Description

No Data

Land Use History

Lower slopes of Mt. Flora probably sheep grazed in the past.

Cultural Features

No Data

SITE DESIGN

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

Boundary Justification

The boundaries are basically those of the element occurrence and the "flat" portion of the plateau that may be impacted by use. Since this is a peak, there is little justification for a buffer.

Primary Area 186.32 Acres 75.40 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B4: Moderate Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site contains an excellent (A-ranked) occurrence of a plant community which is demonstrably secure on a global scale (G5/S5), *Paronychia pulvinata* - *Silene acaulis* dwarf shrubland.

Other Values Rank No Data

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Other Values Comments

No Data

LAND MANAGEMENT ISSUES

Land Use Comments

Presently used by hikers, backpackers and possibly hunters. Lack of grassy meadows along the ridge N and S of here probably precluded the area being used for sheep grazing in the past, although the lower slopes of Mt. Flora probably were.

Natural Hazard Comments

Extremes of weather, cliffs and steep slopes, careless hunters.

Exotics Comments

None apparent - mountain goats here?

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> | | | |
| 24698 | <i>Paronychia pulvinata</i> - <i>Silene acaulis</i> Dwarf-shrubland | Alpine Fellfields | G5 | S5 | Yes |

REFERENCES

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

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

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

Disclaimer

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