

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Yankee Boy Basin/Blue Lakes Pass

Site Code S.USCOHP*19027

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 567 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 375939N
State Colorado Longitude 1074728W

Quad Code Quad Name

37107-H7 Telluride
38107-A7 Mount Sneffels

County

Ouray (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name

14020006 Uncompahange

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	11,400.00 Feet	3,475.00 Meters
Maximum Elevation	13,100.00 Feet	3,993.00 Meters

Site Description

Yankee Boy Basin is a high subalpine to alpine basin in a former mining area. Today it is a popular attraction for tourists and local residents for its scenery, particularly the spectacular show of wildflowers in the summer, and for the historic mines. It is also the base for climbing Mount Sneffels, a 14,150 ft. peak. A road follows Canyon Creek to the trailhead leading to Mt. Sneffels and Blue Lakes Pass. Vegetation ranges from spruce-fir forest through subalpine meadows to alpine tundra, with a high species richness. A recent plant survey by the Colorado Native Plant Society lists 189 species, of which only 3 were non-native. Threats to the area include vehicles going off-road and trampling. Heavy use of the area could lead to "loving it to death". A local organization, the Yankee Boy Preservation Committee, is working to purchase private mining claims in the site. These would then be turned over to Forest Service management. With acquisition of private lands, the Forest Service may be able to enforce no camping rules and limit vehicle use to lessen impacts.

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 12/09/1998
Designer Lyon, M.J.

Boundary Justification

The boundary is drawn to include element occurrences at the higher elevations of Yankee Boy Basin to Blue Lakes Pass, and the Blue Lakes.

Primary Area 2,419.17 Acres 979.01 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site contains a good occurrence of a plant species which is vulnerable on a global scale.

Other Values Rank No Data

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Other Values Comments

Scenic, recreation, popular destination for mining history and wildflowers.

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>
21234	<i>Draba streptobrachia</i>	Colorado Divide whitlow-grass	G3	S3	No
21274	<i>Draba crassa</i>	thick-leaf whitlow-grass	G3G4	S3	Yes

REFERENCES

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

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date	08/02/1999
Version Author	Lyon, M.J.

Disclaimer

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