

# Rare Plant Survey of Kentucky Placer Conservation Easement

Prepared for San Miguel County, Colorado

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A survey of the Kentucky Placer Conservation Easement in San Miguel County, CO was conducted during July and August, 2011. Five one-day trips were made to the area, and all plant communities were surveyed. A species list of plants observed is included here.

Vegetation of the easement consists of spruce-fir forest at the upper elevations, and mountain shrubland in the lower areas. Dominant species include Engelmann spruce (*Picea engelmannii*), subalpine fir (*Abies lasiocarpa*), aspen (*Populus tremuloides*), twinberry (*Distegia involucrata*) and wolf current (*Ribes wolfii*).

Special attention was paid to searching for four rare plants known from above the area: *Cryptogramma stelleri* (“fragile rockbrake”, a fern that is rare in Colorado ranked S2 by Colorado Natural Heritage Program, although common globally); *Botrychium pallidum* (pale moonwort, ranked G3 S2 (globally vulnerable, rare in Colorado); *Botrychium minganense* (Mingan’s moonwort, ranked G4 S2); and *Trifolium kingii* (King’s clover, ranked G5 S1, or globally common, very rare in Colorado). None of these species, or any other species tracked by CNHP were found in the easement. Moist cliff faces which could provide habitat for *Cryptogramma stelleri* supported moss saxifrage (*Cilaria austromontana*) and the common brittle fern (*Cystopteris fragilis*).

The area appears to be in excellent health, with very few non-native species. The four exotic species observed are followed by \* in the list below. None of these are particularly invasive or cause for concern. One consideration for the safety of hikers is the amount of old pipes, cable and wire, mostly off trails, especially under the power line.

### **Species list for Kentucky Placer easement**

July and August 2011

#### **Trees**

<i>Abies lasiocarpa</i>	Subalpine fir
<i>Picea engelmannii</i>	Engelmann spruce
<i>Populus angustifolia</i>	Narrowleaf cottonwood
<i>Populus tremuloides</i>	Aspen

#### **Shrubs**

<i>Acer glabrum</i>	Rocky Mountain maple
<i>Cornus sericea</i>	Red osier dogwood
<i>Distegia involucrata</i>	Twinberry
<i>Juniperus communis</i>	Common juniper
<i>Paxistima myrsinites</i>	Mountain lover
<i>Ribes cereum</i>	Wax currant
<i>Ribes montigenum</i>	Gooseberry currant
<i>Ribes wolfii</i>	Wolf currant
<i>Rosa woodsii</i>	Woods rose
<i>Rubus idaeus</i>	Raspberry
<i>Salix scouleriana</i>	Scouler's willow
<i>Salix drummondiana</i>	Drummond's willow
<i>Salix monticola</i>	Rocky Mountain willow
<i>Sambucus microbotrys</i>	Elderberry
<i>Shepherdia Canadensis</i>	Russet buffaloberry
<i>Symphoricarpos oreophilus</i>	Snowberry
<i>Vaccinium myrtillus</i>	Bilberry

#### **Graminoids**

<i>Bromopsis porteri</i>	Nodding brome
<i>Carex nova</i>	Black sedge

<i>Carex aurea</i>	Golden sedge
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	Orchard grass*
<i>Festuca thurberi</i>	Thurber fescue
<i>Koeleria macrantha</i>	June grass
<i>Phleum commutatum</i>	Alpine timothy
<i>Piptatherum micranthum</i>	Smilgrass
<i>Poa alpina</i>	Alpine bluegrass
<i>Poa pratensis</i>	Kentucky bluegrass*

**Forbs (incl. ferns)**

<i>Achillea lanulosa</i>	Yarrow
<i>Aconitum columbianum</i>	Monk's hood
<i>Actaea rubra</i>	Baneberry
<i>Agoseris sp.</i>	False dandelion
<i>Anaphalis margaritacea</i>	Pearly everlasting
<i>Androsace septentrionalis</i>	Rock jasmine
<i>Aquilegia coerulea</i>	Colorado columbine
<i>Aquilegia elegantula</i>	Western red columbine
<i>Arnica cordifolia</i>	Heartleaf arnica
<i>Arnica parryi</i>	Parry's arnica
<i>Aster ascendens</i>	Chile aster
<i>Bistorta bistortoides</i>	American bistort
<i>Bistorta vivipara</i>	Alpine bistort
<i>Boechera drummondii</i>	Drummond's rock cress
<i>Boechera sp.</i>	Rock cress sp.
<i>Brickellia grandiflora</i>	Tasselflower brickelbush
<i>Campanula rotundifolia</i>	Harebell
<i>Cardamine cordifolia</i>	Bittercress
<i>Carex occidentalis</i>	Western sedge
<i>Castilleja miniata</i>	Scarlet Indian paintbrush
<i>Chamerion danielsii</i>	Fireweed
<i>Chamerion subdentatum</i>	Dwarf fireweed
<i>Cilaria austromontana</i>	Moss saxifrage
<i>Cirsium scariosum</i>	Colorado thistle
<i>Cryptogramma acrostichoides</i>	American rockbrake
<i>Cystopteris fragilis</i>	Brittle fern
<i>Descurainia pinnata</i>	Western tansy mustard
<i>Draba aurea</i>	Golden whitlowgrass
<i>Draba spectabilis</i>	Showy whitlowgrass
<i>Draba streptocarpa</i>	Pretty whitlowgrass

<i>Dugaldia hoopsii</i>	Orange sneezeweed
<i>Epilobium lactiflorum</i>	Milkflower willowweed
<i>Erigeron elatior</i>	Tall fleabane
<i>Erigeron eximius</i>	Spruce fleabane
<i>Erigeron flagellaris</i>	Trailing fleabane
<i>Erigeron leiomeris</i>	Rockslide fleabane
<i>Erigeron lonchophyllus</i>	Longleaf fleabane
<i>Erigeron peregrinus</i>	Subalpine fleabane
<i>Erigeron speciosus</i>	Aspen fleabane
<i>Erigeron subtrinervis</i>	Threenerve fleabane
<i>Erysimum capitatum</i>	Wallflower
<i>Fragaria vesca</i>	Woodland strawberry
<i>Fragaria virginiana</i>	Virginia strawberry
<i>Frasera speciosa</i>	Green gentian
<i>Galium boreale</i>	Northern bedstraw
<i>Galium triflorum</i>	Fragrant bedstraw
<i>Gentianella acuta</i>	Autumn dwarf gentian
<i>Geranium caespitosum</i>	Pinewoods geranium
<i>Geranium richardsonii</i>	Richardson's geranium
<i>Goodyera oblongifolia</i>	Western rattlesnake plantain
<i>Habenaria hyperborea</i>	Northern green orchid
<i>Hedysarum occidentale</i>	Western sweetvetch
<i>Helianthella quinquenervis</i>	Five-nerved little sunflower
<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	Cow parsnip
<i>Heterotheca villosa</i>	Hairy golden aster
<i>Heuchera parvifolia</i>	Littleleaf alumroot
<i>Hydrophyllum fendleri</i>	Fendler's waterleaf
<i>Ligularia amplexans</i>	Showy alpine groundsel
<i>Ligusticum porteri</i>	Osha
<i>Linnaea borealis ssp. longiflora</i>	Twinflower
<i>Mertensia ciliata</i>	Chiming bells
<i>Mimulus guttatus</i>	Monkeyflower
<i>Moneses uniflora</i>	Single delight
<i>Noccaea montana</i>	Alpine pennycress
<i>Oreochrysum parryi</i>	Parry's goldenrod
<i>Orthelia secunda</i>	Sidebells wintergreen
<i>Osmorhiza depauperata</i>	Bluntseed sweetroot
<i>Oxypolis fendleri</i>	Fendler's cowbane
<i>Oxyria digyna</i>	Alpine mountain sorrel

<i>Parnassia fimbriata</i>	Fringed grass of Parnassus
<i>Pedicularis procera</i>	Giant lousewort
<i>Pedicularis racemosa</i>	Sickletop lousewort
<i>Penstemon whippleanus</i>	Whipple's penstemon
<i>Phacelia sericea</i>	Silky phacelia
<i>Polemonium pulcherrimum</i>	Jacob's ladder
<i>Potentilla pucherrima</i>	Beautiful cinquefoil
<i>Pseudocymopterus montanus</i>	Alpine false springparsely
<i>Pyrola rotundifolia sst. asarifolia</i>	Liverleaf wintergreen
<i>Rorippa palustris</i>	Bog yellowcress

<i>Saxifraga hyperborea ssp. debilis</i>	Weak saxifrage
<i>Sedum lanceolatum</i>	Spearleaf stonecrop
<i>Senecio atratus</i>	Tall blacktip ragwort
<i>Senecio eremophilus</i>	Desert groundsel
<i>Senecio fremontii var. blitoides</i>	Dwarf mountain ragwort
<i>Senecio neomexicana</i>	New Mexican groundsel
<i>Senecio serra</i>	Butterweed groundsel
<i>Senecio triangularis</i>	Arrowleaf groundsel
<i>Stellaria umbellata</i>	Umbrella starwort
<i>Swertia perennis</i>	Star gentian
<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>	Common dandelion*
<i>Thalictrum fendleri</i>	Meadowrue
<i>Trifolium brandegii</i>	Brandege's clover
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White clover*
<i>Valeriana capitata</i>	Sharpleaf valerian
<i>Valeriana edulis</i>	Edible valerian
<i>Veronica nutans</i>	American alpine speedwell
<i>Viola adunca</i>	Hookedspur violet
<i>Viola canadensis</i>	White violet