

Colorado Native Plant Society



NEWSLETTER

Volume 8, Number 2
March-April 1984

"DEDICATED TO THE APPRECIATION AND CONSERVATION OF THE COLORADO FLORA"

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

12 MAY, SATURDAY. WATER '84 CONFERENCE.

15 MAY, TUESDAY. Piceance Basin hearing in Meeker.

17 MAY, THURSDAY. Piceance Basin hearing in Grand Junction.

21 MAY, MONDAY. Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument field trip.

22 MAY, TUESDAY. Piceance Basin hearing in Denver.

24 MAY, THURSDAY. Piceance Basin hearing in Glenwood Springs.

26 MAY, SATURDAY. Horsetooth mountain field trip.

2 JUNE, SATURDAY. PICNIC for the Genny and Paul Bryant.

2 JUNE, SATURDAY. Cherry Creek Basin, Denver Metro Chapter field trip.

16 JUNE, SATURDAY. Rampart Range Road field trip.

15-17 JUNE, FRIDAY and SUNDAY. Piceance Basin field trip, details next NEWSLETTER.

23 JUNE, Saturday. Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument field trip, details next NEWSLETTER.

28 JULY. Brainerd Lake field trip, details next NEWSLETTER.

7 AUGUST. Taylor Pass (near Aspen) field trip, details next NEWSLETTER.

19 AUGUST, Sunday. Lost Park roadless area (below Kenosha Pass, Park County) field trip, details next NEWSLETTER.

25-26 AUGUST, Saturday and Sunday. Wolf Creek Pass working field trip to see *Oenothera kleinii*, details next NEWSLETTER.

26 MAY, HORSETOOTH MOUNTAIN

Trip leader Dieter Wilken will meet participants at the Horsetooth Mountain parking lot at 9:00 a.m. Saturday, May 26. The group will hike to the summit of Horsetooth Mountain, an elevation gain of 1500 feet in a distance of 2.5 miles. Hiking shoes and long pants are a necessity because part of the hike will be across terrain without benefit of trails. You must carry water and lunch.

This trip will provide an opportunity to see the newest addition to Lory State Park, the prominent metamorphic monolith that gives its name to the mountain, many species of foothills wildflowers, AND search for two uncommon ferns, *Asplenium trichomanes* and *A. septentrionale*. If time permits, the group will visit a population of *Physaria bellii*, a Front Range endemic. An opportunity to sharpen your identification skills will be provided.

The Horsetooth Mountain parking lot is located at the summit of County Road 38, about 1 mile west of Inlet Bay on Horsetooth Reservoir. Access from Fort Collins is by travelling west of Horsetooth Road, around the southern edge of the Horsetooth Recreation Area. From Loveland, the meeting place is reached by traveling north to Masonville and taking County Road 38 east to the parking lot. Out-of-town participants can obtain a map from Dieter Wilken when registering.

Trip size is unlimited, but you must register!!! Registrations: Dieter Wilken, Dept. of Botany, Colorado State University, Fort Collins CO 80523. Office phone 491-6036. Please register by phone or postcard by 12 MAY.

16 JUNE, RAMPART RANGE ROAD

Lee Barzie will lead a group to a subalpine meadow destination at about 9500 feet elevation. Among the outstanding botanical features of the area is a substantial population of *Calypso bulbosa*, including some white variants! The uncommon *Petasites* and several *Ranunculus* species also should be seen. Lee has been observing this site for a number of years, and will share her knowledge of the changes that have occurred in the plant communities. Because of the fragility of the environment, the trip group is limited to 10. Call Lee Barzie, (Colorado Springs, 634-4715), to sign up and obtain information on the meeting place and time for this trip.

16-17 JUNE, PICEANCE BASIN

PLEASE SEND A POSTCARD WITH YOUR NAME, ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER AND THE NUMBER OF PERSONS ATTENDING IN YOUR GROUP, BY 15 MAY To Piceance Basin Field Trip, CONPS, P. O. Box 200, Fort Collins CO 80522.

The purpose of this trip will be to review the botanical resources of the Piceance Basin in light of the proposed leasing of the Basin by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for oil shale development. The CONPS Board has been an active participant in the BLM planning process and encourages you as Colorado citizens concerned about our native plants to do the same.

Bill Baker, Scott Peterson, and Tamara Naumann were members of the team that conducted the botanical survey of the Piceance Basin in 1982. They inventoried the Basin on a section by section basis, searching for rare plant species and remnant vegetation occurrences (high quality plant associations) and collected the general flora. Localities for several new species of plants and plant associations were documented as well as occurrences of rare species and associations already known to science.

The BLM's Piceance Basin Resource Management Plan (RMP) is currently out for public comments. Decisions on the future management of the Basin will be made after the RMP is finalized in the fall. The Board has taken an active role in commenting during the BLM planning process to encourage BLM to consider the conservation of the internationally, nationally, and state important botanical resources that were documented during the 1982 inventory. This trip will provide you with an opportunity to view first hand, some of these important sites.

Please try to arrive in Meeker at the City Park Campground on the evening of Friday, 15 June. We will depart the campground on Saturday morning at 7:30 a.m. and proceed toward the Cathedral Bluffs, via the Rangely area. The entire route will be accessible by car, though some of the roads will be rough. There will be some invigorating walking for those individuals who want a first hand look at some of the botanical habitats. Just before Rangely, we will turn south and drive over a new road (constructed for oil shale development) to the northern portion of Cathedral Bluffs. During this day, we will visit several plant association and rare plant sites that were documented during the 1982 inventory and recommended to BLM for consideration as Special Management Areas. We will end the day back in Meeker (there are several motels and the Meeker Hotel for those interested in the good life). Sunday, we will visit a few of the recommended sites along Piceance Creek Road, from White River City to Rio Blanco. This day will be completed about 1:00 p.m., so that you will have plenty of time to travel back home before dark.

PICEANCE BASIN

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT BLM'S PICEANCE BASIN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN!!

Background: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is preparing a draft Resource Management Plan (RMP) for the Piceance Basin, an area of western Colorado that is rich in plant resources as well as in oil shale and other resources. The plan finally adopted will guide and determine the way in which BLM manages all these resources for many years to come. The Colorado Native Plant Society (CONPS) is concerned that the plant resources, which include several rare plants as well as a number of vegetation associations known from no other location or of exceptional quality in this region, will be ignored in favor of short-term utilization of the geologic resources.

To its credit, BLM in 1982 funded a study of the plant resources of the Piceance Basin. This study, conducted by The Nature Conservancy (TNC), provided data on rare plants and on vegetation types within the area of the Piceance Basin RMP. Later, again at BLM's request, TNC workers recommended 20 sites as deserving designation as BLM "Special Management Areas" to provide long-term protection to important plants and plant associations. Having thus obtained the results and recommendations of a well-designed, thorough study of the plant resources of the Piceance Basin, BLM has proceeded to ignore these data almost completely.

CONPS, after reviewing carefully the reports from TNC's study, also requested BLM to designate as "Special Management Areas" the 20 sites recommended in the TNC study. It appears unlikely, however, that such designation will be proposed in the forthcoming draft RMP (originally scheduled for release in March, 1984; now expected about mid-April, 1984). As a result, CONPS is asking its members and other concerned individuals to make known to BLM their opinions about these plant sites.

After the draft RMP is released to the public, individuals are urged to comment either at public hearings (see below) or in written form. This is the way we, representing the public interest in the plant resources, must influence BLM's consideration of these 20 plant sites.

Hearings will be held at 7:00 p.m. on the following dates at these locations:

May 15 Meeker (BLM White River
Resource Area office)

May 17 Grand Junction (Ramada Inn)

May 22 Denver (Ramada Inn/Foothills,
11595 W. 6th Avenue,
Lakewood)

May 24 Glenwood Springs (Holiday Inn)

Once the draft RMP is released to the public, CONPS plans to review it in detail and provide an analysis to our members (and to other individuals and groups that have requested information). Please watch your mail for a special communication from the Society about the RMP, and be ready to respond by writing to BLM and, if possible, appearing in person at a hearing to express your views. To request a copy of the draft RMP, write Mr. Curt Smith, Area Manager, White River Resource Area, P.O. Box 957, Meeker, CO 81641.

For the benefit of those who have been unable to examine personally the five-volume TNC report (available for inspection at BLM's White River Resource Area office, Meeker; at BLM's District Office in Craig, Colorado; and at the Colorado Natural Heritage Inventory, 1550 Lincoln, Suite #110, Denver), CONPS has prepared this brief description of the most significant features of the 20 plant sites in question. Table 1 summarizes the sites, the Special Management recommendations supported by CONPS, and the area (in acres) proposed for each designation.

SITE DESCRIPTIONS

Introduction: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) contracted in 1982 with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) to complete a \$125,000 study to document the location and status of rare plants and vegetation in the Piceance Basin, in order to provide data necessary for the BLM to prepare its Resource Management Plan (RMP), which would guide development of the Basin for oil shale leasing and other uses.

The TNC study identified 12 rare plants and 36 vegetation types that were in need of protection from the potentially adverse effects of mining, grazing, timber management, and other uses, and outlined in detail a system of 20 natural areas that would provide minimum adequate protection for the rare plants and vegetation. These 20 sites in total include only about 4% of the total land area in the Basin and represent only about 1% of the currently allocated livestock grazing use.

The sites cannot be adequately protected in perpetuity without official designation as natural areas and appropriate management. BLM uses three kinds of designations for

natural areas: (1) Research Natural Area (RNA), (2) Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC), and (3) Outstanding Natural Area (ONA). These designations and the 20 proposed sites are described below. The current status of the designation process is described in the Colorado Native Plant Society (CONPS) Newsletters for October-December (Vol. 7, No. 5), and January-February 1984 (Vol. 8, No. 1). These are available from CONPS at P. O. Box 200, Fort Collins CO 80522.

Importance: If successfully designated and managed, these sites will serve several important functions: (1) as baseline areas for scientific research and study, (2) as comparison areas used as standards from which to evaluate the effects of various land uses, (3) as sites for the perpetuation of rare plants, vegetation, and animals, (4) as sites for the conservation of wild products such as medicines, foods, and fibers derived from wild plants. The genetic diversity contained in native plants is an invaluable and irreplaceable resource. We must preserve remnants of the original landscape so that we and future generations may study and appreciate our natural heritage.

Designations: Natural areas are designed primarily for the protection of natural vegetation, rare plants and animals, and aquatic ecosystems. Passive sorts of recreation are not excluded. The sites are managed as much as possible in a manner that will ensure the perpetuation of the natural values contained on the site. Depending on the designation, some or all of the following land uses may be excluded completely: domestic livestock grazing, logging, mining, oil and gas development, range improvements, herbicide use, pipelines, roads, dwellings, and even in some cases, trails. The three kinds of BLM natural areas and their management restrictions are:

(1) Research Natural Area (RNA)

Generally of relatively small size (less than 1000 acres), this designation provides the most protection and long term security. Excluded are all land uses that may alter the site, such as mining, domestic grazing, logging, herbicide use, etc. Only non-manipulative scientific research is permitted. Passive recreation such as nature observation and study is not excluded.

(2) Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)

This designation may be applied to a large area, but management restrictions may be applied to part of the site or to particular values on the site. Logging, for example, might be excluded in order to protect a forest, while roads and other uses might be permitted if they did not affect the forest. Protection is resource specific and more limited in scope than that of an RNA. Adequate protection is totally dependent on the thoroughness of the management plan governing the site.

(3) Outstanding Natural Area (ONA)

This designation is used to preserve sites that have outstanding scenic or other

natural values. Actual protection for natural values contained on the site may be anywhere from minimal to comprehensive, depending on the management plan governing the site.

THE PROPOSED NATURAL AREA SYSTEM
Descriptions of the 20 Sites:

1. Alkali Flat

This 105 acre recommended ACEC would protect the best condition site currently known in Colorado for the Black greasewood/inland saltgrass vegetation type, a vegetation type that has been extensively altered throughout its range.

2. Camp Gulch Spring

This less than 2 acre site would protect a natural spring system and its associated wetland. There are no springs in the Piceance Basin that are protected from the adverse effects of domestic livestock grazing, or from loss or alteration as oil shale development proceeds.

3. Deer Gulch

This site is a 3,115 acre area recommended as an ACEC which contains within it a 945 acre RNA recommendation. The ACEC contains the largest concentration known in the world of the oil shale fescue, a rare grass restricted primarily to the oil shale lands of the Piceance Basin. This is the only site recommended that would provide adequate protection for this rare species. The RNA part of the ACEC contains the most pristine stream system and watershed in the Piceance Basin. As many of the other watersheds in the Basin would be filled with waste shale if development proceeds fully, it is important that one watershed remain unaltered.

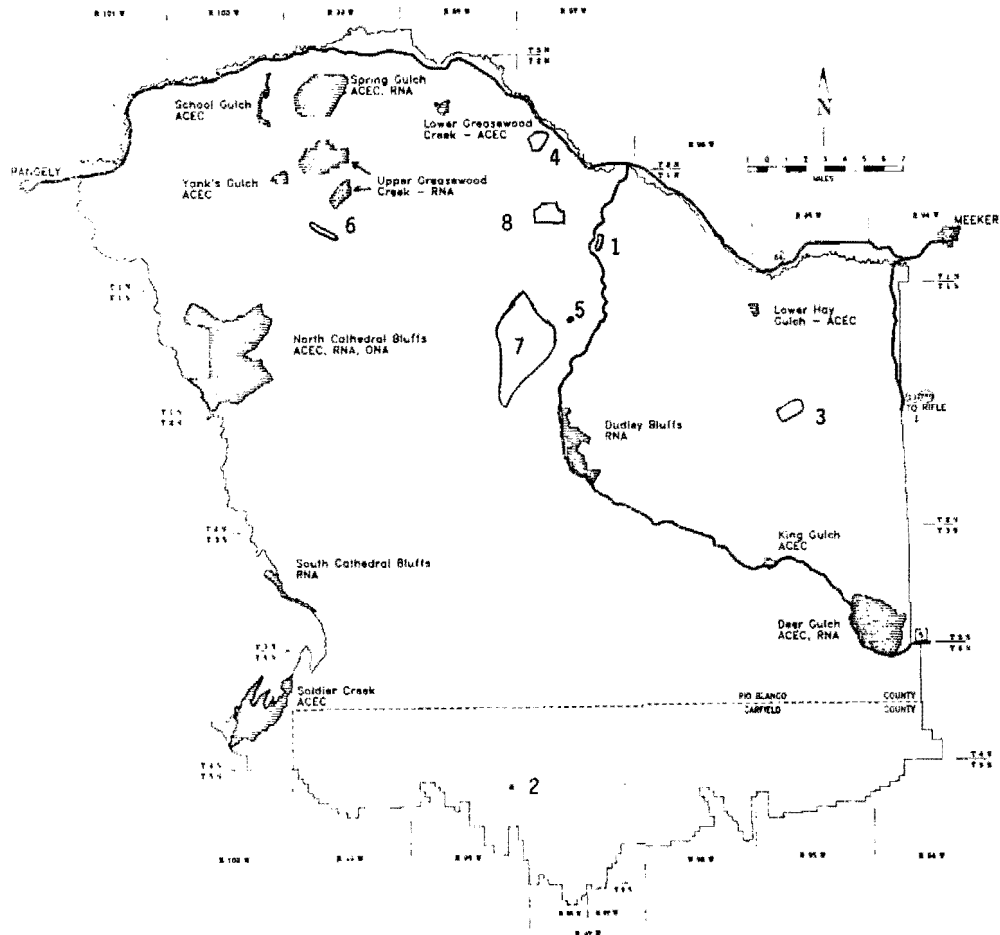
4. Dudley Bluffs

This site is a 1475 acre area of pinyon-juniper woodlands and oil shale exposures. It contains the largest population known in the world and the type locality (the site where the plant was described to science) of the Piceance Twinpod, a very rare new mustard species that was discovered in 1982 by TNC, and that has recently been described by Dr. Reed Rollins of the Gray Herbarium at Harvard University. The plant is known only on this and two other sites from the Piceance Basin. The site also contains three very rare vegetation types. One of these, the Shadscale saltbush/beardless bluebunch wheatgrass-Indian ricegrass type, is found only in the oil shale lands of northwestern Colorado, where less than 100 acres remain in a relatively pristine condition.

5. King Gulch

This important site, although only 135 acres in area, is a recommended ACEC. It contains the most pristine examples remaining of the Shadscale saltbush/beardless wheatgrass-Indian ricegrass vegetation type, known only from the oil

PICEANCE BASIN PROPOSED SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREAS



Sites included in the Wildlife Alternative in BLM's Draft Piceance Basin RMP are cross-hatched. Sites proposed for inclusion, but not included in any Alternative are numbered as follows: 1. Alkali Flat, 2. Camp Gulch Spring, 3. Owl Gulch, 4. Smizer, 5. Square S Ponderosa, 6. Trail Canyon, 7. Yellow Creek Basin, 8. Yellow Creek Ridge. This figure is modified from Figure B-1 on p. 250 of the Draft RMP.

SUMMARY OF THE PROPOSED NATURAL AREAS

Site Name	ACRES			
	RNA	ACEC	ONA	TOTAL
Alkali Flat		105		105
Camp Gulch Spring		2		2
Deer Gulch	945	3115		3115
Dudley Bluffs	1475	1475		1475
King Gulch		135		135
Lower Greasewood Creek		200		200
Lower Hay Gulch		140		140
North Cathedral Bluffs	650	7700	1255	7700
Owl Gulch	715	715		715
School Gulch	400	400		400
Smizer		180		180
Soldier Creek		4080		4080
South Cathedral Bluffs	1540	1540	1540	1540
Spring Gulch	860	2880		2880
Square S Ponderosa		30		30
Trail Canyon		50		50
Upper Greasewood Creek	2380	2380		2380
Yanks Gulch		460		460
Yellow Creek Basin		6750		6750
Yellow Creek Ridge		760		760
Totals	8965	33097	2790	33097



shale lands in Colorado. Of a former range probably encompassing several thousand acres, fewer than 100 acres remain in relatively pristine condition. Most of the former range has been altered by domestic livestock grazing.

6. Lower Greasewood Creek

This 200 acre recommended ACEC contains half of the known Colorado populations of *Bilia stenothyrsa*, a plant that is known only from the Uinta Basin in Utah and Colorado. The site also includes the only known Colorado location for the Utah juniper-Colorado pinyon/black sagebrush/beardless bluebunch wheatgrass vegetation association, which has a similar range.

7. Lower Hay Gulch

This small site of 140 acres is recommended as an ACEC to provide protection for the most pristine example remaining of the beardless bluebunch wheatgrass grassland. This grassland once occurred on more than 50,000 acres in the oil shale region of Rio Blanco and Garfield counties, but now is found in good condition on fewer than 100 acres. These last remnants so far have escaped significant alteration by domestic livestock grazing, but now are threatened by oil shale mining and other land uses.

8. North Cathedral Bluffs

This large site of 7700 acres is recommended partly as an RNA, partly as an ONA, and overall as an ACEC. The RNA part of the proposed site was dropped from further consideration in 1983 after BLM permitted the forest that was to be protected on the site to be logged. The ACEC boundary also was adjusted to exclude some lands having mining claims that are in litigation. The ONA part of the site is a narrow ridge that juts out from the edge of the oil shale lands. From the ONA one can gain an unsurpassed view of the 2000 foot escarpment of Cathedral Bluffs. The remainder of the proposed ACEC is designed to insure protection of a broad spectrum of vegetation, plants, geology, and aquatic features representative of the northern part of the oil shale lands. The site contains cliffs, waterfalls, high plateaus, and inaccessible valleys. It is in one of the more remote parts of the Piceance Basin.

9. Owl Gulch

This site is recommended as an RNA of 715 acres. Its primary purpose is to complement the Deer Gulch Proposed RNA by protecting a small watershed that is contained entirely within the sandstone of the Uinta Formation.

10. School Gulch

This site, recommended as an ACEC, contains 400 acres of pinyon-juniper woodlands and oil shale escarpments. It contains one of the best condition sites in Colorado for the rare Utah juniper/Salina wildrye vegetation type as well as a strikingly beautiful and rare plant, the debris milkvetch.

11. Smizer

This is a 180 acre recommended ACEC perched on the side of the escarpment that forms the northern boundary of the Piceance Basin. It is a steep site containing a good quality example of the Big sagebrush-shadscale saltbush/Saline wildrye vegetation type, a type that currently is known only from a few similar oil shale escarpments in Rio Blanco and Garfield counties in Colorado.

12. Soldier Creek

This high plateau and escarpment site, recommended as an ACEC, contains 4080 acres of oil shale exposures, 1500 foot cliffs, and pristine waterfalls and forests. Most importantly, it contains the largest concentration in the oil shale region of

Purpus sullivanii, a beautiful rare plant that occurs only in the hanging gardens associated with waterfalls. The site also contains a population of the Sun-loving meadowrue, a rare species that was discovered in 1980 and is unknown outside the oil shale region in Colorado. The best example in the world of a particular kind of Douglas-fir forest that is restricted in range to northwestern Colorado also occurs on this site.

13. South Cathedral Bluffs

This 1540 acre site recommended as an RNA, ACEC, and DNA is without question one of the most important sites in the Piceance Basin, as well as being one of the most spectacular. It contains the largest known population of the Sun-loving meadowrue, a plant species discovered on this site in 1980. The site contains a new species of mustard, the Piceance bladderpod, which currently is being named and described by Dr. Reed Rollins of the Gray Herbarium at Harvard University. Several other rare plants also occur on the site.

14. Spring Gulch

On the side of the 1500 foot escarpment that forms the western boundary of the Piceance Basin, this 2880 acre site contains a recommended 860 acre RNA of great importance. Because this site is almost inaccessible to humans or livestock, it retains the largest and least altered example remaining in the world of the Shadscale saltbush/Salina wildrye vegetation type, a plant association occurring only in northwestern Colorado and a small part of northeastern Utah. Because most of the former sites for this kind of vegetation have been altered by livestock grazing, this site is of great value.

15. Square S Ponderosa

This small site of about 30 acres is recommended as an ACEC because it contains one of only a few stands of ponderosa pine that occur in the Piceance Basin. The area probably is a relict from an earlier time when conditions of the region were more favorable for ponderosa pine.

16. Trail Canyon

Another small site of about 50 acres is recommended as an ACEC because it contains best remaining highest quality example known in Colorado for the formerly widespread Big sagebrush/Pacific giant wildrye vegetation type. This vegetation type has been converted to agriculture in many areas, or has been altered by domestic livestock grazing.

17. Upper Greasewood Creek

A 2380 acre RNA recommendation, this site contains most of the known range for a rare kind of Colorado Pinyon woodland vegetation type that is entirely restricted to this part of the Piceance Basin, and found nowhere else in the world. The site also contains the most pristine example known in Colorado for the Pacific giant wildrye grassland. The word "Piceance" in French, according to one source, means "tall grass." The name of the Basin refers to

the appearance of this tall grassland to early residents. The former grassland has been replaced by agricultural fields or grazing lands except in a few places, such as in this valley.

18. Yanks Gulch

This site of 460 acres is a recommended ACEC. The site is most important because it contains one of only three known populations of the Piceance twinpod, a very rare plant that was found by TNC during their study for BLM in 1982. This plant, a member of the mustard family (Brassicaceae), is not known to occur anywhere else in the world. The site also contains the best concentration of waterfalls and unaltered upper watersheds in the Basin, as well as the largest concentration of the rare Barneby's columbine.

19. Yellow Creek Basin

This 6750 acre site was recommended as an ACEC to insure that a part of the middle Piceance Basin and a representative cross-section of the vegetation and flora it contains would be protected from alteration by energy development. It consists largely of pinyon-juniper woodlands, ephemeral stream drainages, and exposures of oil shale.

20. Yellow Creek Ridge

A recommended ACEC of 760 acres, this site contains one of the best remaining examples of a particular kind of pinyon-juniper woodland, the Utah juniper-Colorado pinyon/beardless bluebunch wheatgrass type. This vegetation type is not found outside of the Uinta Basin in Colorado and Utah, and remains in good condition on only a few sites.

WATER '84 CONFERENCE

WATER '84--A CITIZENS' WORKING CONFERENCE is scheduled for Saturday, May 12, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Inn at Glenwood, Glenwood Springs. The conference theme is: THE FUTURE OF WESTERN SLOPE WATER: WHOSE DECISION? Although the primary focus will be on western slope water issues, projects, and impacts, many of these issues have implications for all of Colorado. CONPS is among a large group of environmental, citizen, and local government groups sponsoring the conference.

The agenda is expected to include a keynote speaker on "The Conflicting Demands on the Colorado River Basin," a forum featuring 3rd Congressional District candidates who will discuss their views on the federal role in financing water projects, and workshops on such topics as: energy development--impacts on water, agriculture, and endangered species; impacts of trans-mountain diversions; water conservation and legal challenges; and surface and ground-water quality issues.

Registration is \$20 per person; this includes Saturday lunch, break refreshments, and materials. If you wish to stay overnight, the Inn at Glenwood (1-800-332-1472) has reserved rooms for conference participants (participants are responsible for their own lodging). A picnic or raft trip will be provided Sunday at additional cost for those who wish to attend.

To receive the detailed agenda and registration forms, contact: WATER '84, c/o Friends of the Earth, P.O. Box 728, Palisade, CO 81526 (phone 464-5329).

INTERMOUNTAIN FLORA

Volume 4 of the INTERMOUNTAIN FLORA series is now available. This 573 page volume covers the Asteridae except the Asteraceae. Included in the Asteridae are the orders Gentianales, Solanales, Lamiales, Callitrichales, Scrophulariales, Campanulales, Rubiales, and Dipsacales.

Chronologically the third volume to appear in this projected six-volume series, it joins volumes 1 (Geological and botanical history; plant geography; vascular cryptogams; gymnosperms; glossary) and 2 (the monocotyledons). The series, authored by Arthur Cronquist, Arthur H. Holmgren, Noel H. Holmgren, James L. Reveal, and Patricia K. Holmgren, provides comprehensive coverage of the vascular plants of the intermountain area (between the Sierra of California and the Rockies). Volume 4, a beautiful clothbound book, is priced at \$75.00. Order from: Scientific Publications Office, The New York Botanical Garden, Bronx, NY 10458 (no postage and handling charge on prepaid orders) or through your bookseller.

GEORGE KELLY'S HORTICULTURAL BOOKS

CONPS members know George Kelly as the long-time leader in Rocky Mountain horticulture. George's many books are used widely by those interested in landscaping. Often these books can be found at bookstores in our area, or you may order them directly from: George W. Kelley, 15126 County Road G, Cortez, CO 81321. (Add 75 cents per title for postage & handling.)

Titles available are:

Trees for the Rocky Mountains	\$4.00
Shrubs for the Rocky Mountains	8.00
Ground Covers for the Rocky Mtns	4.00
Flowers for the Rocky Mountains	8.00
Useful Native Plants of the	
Four Corners Area	4.00
The Things I Prize	8.00
A Way to Beauty	4.00

A SPECIAL WILDFLOWER BOOK

A new book, Where Have All the Wildflowers Gone, presents "a region-by-region guide to threatened and endangered U. S. wildflowers." Written by Dr. Robert Mohlenbrock and published by the Macmillan Co., New York, it is both a field guide and a source of references to many of the nation's rarest native plants. Dr. Peter Raven, Director of the Missouri Botanical Garden, called it "...beautifully written, scientifically accurate, easily read and understood...."

This 264-page book, with 40 color photos, lists at \$15.95 but may be bought at the special price of \$13.00 (postage paid) from the Southern Illinois Native Plant Society, Department of Botany, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, Illinois 62901. Send your check or money order (payable to S.I.N.P.S.), specify the book title, and allow three weeks or more for delivery.

WE HAVE A STATE FLOWER, WE HAVE A STATE TREE, NOW HOW ABOUT A STATE GRASS?

Tom Eaman, an active CONPS member, is Chairman of the State Grass Committee of the Society of Range Management. This group is working toward establishment of a State Grass for Colorado. CONPS has endorsed the idea "in principle," with the proviso that a native grass be chosen. The Society will consider the matter further when a specific grass is selected.

GENNY AND PAUL BRYANT, FOUNDING MEMBERS, TO LEAVE COLORADO

Genevieve and Paul Bryant of Fort Collins, founding members and loyal supporters of CONPS since its inception in 1976, soon will be leaving Colorado for a new home and new challenges in Virginia. Genny was involved in all the initial work leading to establishment of the Colorado Native Plant Society, and was a member of the first Board of Directors. Both Genny, a member of the faculty of CSU's Department of Botany and Plant Pathology, and Paul, a CSU English Department professor, have contributed in many ways to CONPS. We will miss their concern, participation in Society activities, and unfailing willingness to help when needed.

Genny's and Paul's CONPS friends are invited to join the Ft. Collins Chapter members and Society Board of Directors at a picnic in their honor, to be held at the home of Sue Martin and Myrna Steinkamp in Ft. Collins, on June 2, 1984, from 5:30 to ?? p.m. Please drop a note to Sue or Myrna at the Society address if you plan to attend; directions to their home will be mailed to you.

Thanks Genny and Paul...we will miss you!!

2 JUNE, CHERRY CREEK BASIN

The newly formed Denver Metro Chapter of CONPS will hold a field trip to look for EDIBLE PLANTS OF THE CHERRY CREEK BASIN. This field trip will be led by EXIE WHITE, Professor Emerita of Botany, Colorado Women's College.

Meet at the Radio Shack Parking Lot, east of University Boulevard and north of Cherry Creek Drive North.

You won't want to miss this interesting and delectable journey (and historical first field trip of the Chapter) with a premier wildland gourmet. The trip is limited to 15 participants, so you had better sign up early, with Anne S. Fernald, secretary. The morning will be spent learning about and foraging for the basic ingredients. By 1:00 p.m., you will arrive at the Denver Botanic Gardens, where Exie will provide instructions to turn your wildland collections into a banquet. Don't forget to bring tennis shoes or boots that aren't allergic to water.

21 MAY.

Florissant National Monument

Join Mary Edwards, Chair of the Florissant Committee, and her committee members for a collecting day at the Florissant National Monument (FNM). The group will depart from Monument headquarters at 9:00 a.m. on May 21st. Florissant National Monument is 35 miles west of Colorado Springs on U.S. Highway 24, about 0.5 mile south of the town of Florissant.

This is the first of several day-trips into FNM (and note that it is the only one that will be on a week-day). Mary also plans trips each month through September. Plan to join one of these to contribute to the Society's project of compiling a complete, vouchered plant inventory of FNM. In addition, you will learn more about FNM and about plant taxonomy from our knowledgeable committee members.

For information, contact Mary Edwards (Denver, 233-8133), Miriam Denham (Boulder, 422-1020), or Nevin BeBee (Denver, 733-1038).

NEW CONPS CHAPTER DENVER METRO

Seven Denver area CONPS members have signed an organizing petition for a new Chapter, to be known as the "Denver Metro Chapter of the Colorado Native Plant Society." At its meeting on April 7th, the CONPS Board of Directors accepted the petition and formally recognized the new Chapter.

The fledgling Chapter's organizational meeting was held on Friday, April 27th, at 7:30 p.m. in Classroom C of the Denver Botanic Gardens, 909 York. The agenda included a short organizational meeting (with nomination and election of officers) and a slide show, "A Few of Colorado's Rare Gems," by Scott Peterson of the Colorado Natural Heritage Inventory. Refreshments followed. All Denver CONPSers are urged to join the new Chapter and help it succeed.

ERRATA

The last issue of the NEWSLETTER was caught in the change of the year problem that a lot of us have in that we forget to write the new year for the first several months. The Volume 8, No. 1 is correct and the January/February is correct but it should have been 1984 not 1983. If you file your copies of the NEWSLETTER please make this correction to avoid confusion later.

-----OFFICERS-----

President:	Sue Martin	226-3371
Vice-Pres.:	Harold Weissler	278-9186
Secretary:	Eleanor Von Barga	756-1400
Treasurer:	Myrna Steinkamp	226-3371

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Please direct all contributions to the EDITOR in care of the Society's mailing address. There is a special need for small filler items such as some unusual information about a plant, a little known botanical term, etc.

Deadlines for contributions to the NEWSLETTER are the 15th of January, March, May, July, September, and November with publication sometime during the next month.

-----MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS AND INFORMATION-----

Please direct all membership applications, renewals and address changes to the MEMBERSHIP Chairperson, in care of the Society's mailing address.

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