

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Bear Creek at Glenwood Canyon

Site Code S.USCOHP*21719

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 535 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 393229N
State Colorado Longitude 1071413W

Quad Code Quad Name

39107-E2 Shoshone

County

Garfield (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name

14010001 Colorado headwaters
14010004 Roaring Fork

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	7,700.00 Feet	2,347.00 Meters
Maximum Elevation	8,700.00 Feet	2,652.00 Meters

Site Description

Bear Creek is a short tributary of the Colorado River that begins at an elevation of 8,800 feet and drops to 6,000 feet at its confluence with the Colorado River across a distance of approximately 2 miles. The riparian community is dense and species rich. Thinleaf alder (*Alnus incana*), red-osier dogwood (*Cornus sericea*), and a diversity of forbs dominate the middle portion of the creek. On a north-facing slope, about 1/3 of the distance from the headwaters to the Colorado River, is a slope wetland forest dominated by aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) and Rocky Mountain maple (*Acer glabrum*). Behind an old berm, which was probably constructed to create a cattle pond, is a marsh dominated by variety of sedges (*Carex* spp.), rushes (*Juncus* spp.), cattail (*Typha* sp.), and watercress (*Nasturtium officinale*). Soils are variable in this area and are not mapped in the Soil Survey due to the small area represented by this wetland. Previous field investigations of the area near the aspen/maple forest and the marsh, during June of 1993, indicated that the water table was 66 cm below the soil surface. A brief soil profile is given below: A 10 YR 2/1 Bt 10 YR 2/2, with 5% mottling, and very fine and fine roots. Sulfur or "rotten egg" (sulfides) smell emitted from soils. pH of soil - 7.0 Structure was difficult to determine due to soil saturation and large amounts of organic matter. Although this site contains a long riparian area with fairly high cover of woody vegetation, the capacity of this wetland to perform flood attenuation is limited by the steepness of the drainage. However, dense vegetation likely is providing good bank stabilization functions. The diversity of habitats, such as an emergent marsh and forested wetland, provide excellent habitat for avian species and large and small mammals. Since the aspen/Rocky mountain maple forested wetland occurs on a hillside and not along a stream, the capacity of this site to perform flood attenuation and storage and sediment/shoreline stabilization is minimal. Given the presence of periodically saturated soils, and a thick litter layer, there are many potential pathways for nutrient transformations. Thus, important, local biogeochemical functions are likely occurring at this site.

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 01/15/2001
Designer Rocchio, F.J.

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Boundary Justification

The boundary encompasses the riparian and wetland areas and surrounding and upstream slopes to ensure hydrological processes remain intact. These processes are necessary for the viability of the elements and maintenance of ecological functions such as a dynamic distribution of aquatic and terrestrial habitat.

Primary Area 390.17 Acres 157.90 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

The site supports a fair (C-ranked) occurrence of the globally imperiled (G2/S1S2) aspen/Rocky Mountain maple (*Populus tremuloides*/*Acer glabrum*) riparian forest. The site supports a good (B-ranked) occurrence of the state rare (G3G4/S3) thinleaf alder/red-osier dogwood (*Alnus incana*/*Cornus sericea*) riparian shrubland.

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

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>
24773	<i>Alnus incana</i> / <i>Cornus sericea</i> Shrubland	Thinleaf Alder-Red-osier Dogwood Riparian Shrubland	G3G4	S3	No
24861	<i>Populus tremuloides</i> / <i>Acer glabrum</i> Forest	Montane Riparian Forests	G2	S2	Yes

REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
160919	Lyon, P. 2000. Colorado Natural Heritage Program Biological Assessment of Garfield County.
160810	Rocchio, J. 2000. Colorado Natural Heritage Program Wetland Inventory/Assessment of Garfield County.

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date 01/15/2001
Version Author Rocchio, F.J.

Disclaimer

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