Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Beaver Creek at TNY Spring **Site Code** S.USCOHP*9332

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 1992 **Site Class** PCA

Site Alias None

Network of Conservation Areas (NCA)

NCA Site ID	NCA Site Code	NCA Site Name
-		No Data

LOCATORS

Nation United States **Latitude** 372044N

State Colorado **Longitude** 1072830W

Quad Code	Quad Name
37107-C4	Baldy Mountain

County

Archuleta (CO)

Watershed Code	Watershed Name
14080101	Upper San Juan

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	8,200.00	**Feet**	2,499.00	**Meters**
Maximum Elevation	9,440.00	**Feet**	2,877.31	**Meters**

Site Description

The Beaver Creek at TNY Spring site encompasses a narrow valley or canyon with slopes that drop some 200 feet to the valley bottom. The slopes are gradual and vary, but on average are around 20%. There is a narrow band of riparian vegetation within the valley bottom that is dominated by subalpine fir (*Abies lasiocarpa*), Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) and thinleaf alder (*Alnus incana*). Throughout the valley bottom there are pockets of Drummond's willow (*Salix drummondiana*) and mountain maple (*Acer glabrum*). A small amount of mountain ash (*Sorbus scopulina*) is present on the west-facing slopes of the valley. A dense covering of herbs covers the valley floor including Geyer's sedge (*Carex geyeri*), Porter's licorice-root (*Ligusticum porteri*), Richardson's geranium (*Geranium richardsonii*), cow parsnip (*Heracleum lanatum*), Franciscan bluebells (*Mertensia franciscana*) and western bracken fern (*Pteridium aquilinum*). The subalpine fir - Englemann spruce / thinleaf alder (*Abies lasiocarpa - Picea Engelmannii / Alnus incana*) montane riparian forest community occurs along Beaver Creek. There is a Forest Service road (FS135A) on the west-facing slope. Grazing is prevalent and logging has occurred in the drainage.

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** 11/22/2005

Designer Freeman, K.M.

Boundary Justification

The boundary incorporates an area that will allow natural hydrological processes such as seasonal flooding and sediment deposition to continue, and to maintain a viable population of the riparian forest along Beaver Creek. The broad, grazed meadows immediately upstream of the element occurrence and the steep slopes adjacent to the occurrence that would most likely impact the riparian forest if altered are also included. The boundary also provides a small buffer from nearby roads where surface runoff may contribute excess nutrients, toxicants, and sediment. It should be noted that all the hydrological processes necessary to support the riparian forest are not fully contained by the site boundaries. Given that the riparian forest is dependent on natural hydrological processes associated with Beaver Creek, upstream activities such as water

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diversions, impoundments, improper livestock grazing, and development are detrimental to the hydrology of the riparian area. This boundary indicates the minimum area that should be considered for any conservation management plan. The existing site boundary was verified to contain the plant association in 2005 and the occurrence seems stable, however the full extent of the occurrence is still unknown. It probably occurs further downstream than mapped.

Primary Area 488.79 **Acres** 197.81 **Hectares**

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B4: Moderate Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site contains a good (B-ranked) occurrence of a subalpine fir / thinleaf alder (*Abies lasiocarpa / Alnus incana*) montane riparian forest community, which is secure (G5/S5) on a global scale.

Other Values Rank No Data

Other Values Comments

No Data

LAND MANAGMENT ISSUES

Land Use Comments

Landuse is heavy in the area, including intensive grazing, logging, and recreational impacts from roads and trails, but the riparian area is steep and not easily accessible for direct impact from any of these land uses. However, indirect impacts from any or all of these land uses could adversely affect the long-term viability of the element occurrence.

Natural Hazard Comments

No Data

Exotics Comments

No Data

Offsite

The hydrology is altered upstream by constructed stock ponds within the grazing allotment and within the immediate watershed for Beaver Creek.

Information Needs

No Data

ASSOCIATED ELEMENTS OF BIODIVERSITY

Element State ID	State Scientific Name	State Common Name	Global Rank	State Rank	Driving Site Rank
24684	*Abies lasiocarpa / Alnus incana* Forest	Montane Riparian Forests	G5	S5	Yes

REFERENCES

Reference ID	Full Citation
170844	Randolph, D., Smith, Kettler, Redders, Roy, and Aitken. 1994. San Juan National Forest Riparian Site Survey.

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

Original site design by Kettler, S.M. 1997-05-23.

VERSION

Version Date 11/22/2005

Version Author Freeman, K.M.

Disclaimer

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