

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Beaver Dams Creek

Site Code S.USCOHP*18131

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 1482 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 381809N
State Colorado Longitude 1080553W

Quad Code Quad Name
38108-C1 Pryor Creek

County

Montrose (CO)

Ouray (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name
14020006 Uncompahange

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	8,800.00 Feet	2,682.00 Meters
Maximum Elevation	9,480.00 Feet	2,890.00 Meters

Site Description

Beaver Dams Creek, at the top of the Uncompahgre Plateau, is a small tributary of Dry Creek. The site is forested with a mixture of aspen and sometimes dense Engelmann spruce. Some parts have been logged. Understory species in the uplands include snowberry, orange sneezeweed, elk sedge, and bracken fern. There is a dirt road which follows the east fork of the creek, terminating above the confluence of the two forks. A trail continues from the end of the road, crossing the creek. The riparian zone along Beaver Dams Creek is dominated by Douglas-fir, with some aspen and spruce. The narrow, shady canyon has a sparse shrub layer, including twinberry honeysuckle, snowberry, and wild raspberry. The herbaceous vegetation includes bracken fern, tall sedges, rushes and grasses, cow parsnip, bluebells, triangle-leaf groundsel, bittercress, and bog orchids. There are few exotic species in the riparian zone, except for Kentucky bluegrass and red top. However, there is a bad infestation of Canada thistle along the trail, and dandelions are common in open disturbed areas. The showy whitlow-grass population was found on both sides of the road, in small clearings, with snowberry, orange sneezeweed and dandelions. The wild hollyhock was growing on a very wet north facing slope at the end of the road, with spruce, twinberry honeysuckle, thimbleberry, one-sided wintergreen, and a rich diversity of sedges and mosses. Although not included in the site, there is a goshawk nest within a mile, and this area is probably used by the birds for hunting.

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 12/08/1998
Designer Lyon, M.J.

Boundary Justification

The boundary is drawn to include element occurrences in the riparian zone and adjacent forested areas above the headwaters of Beaver Dams Creek.

Primary Area 391.16 Acres 158.30 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

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Biodiversity Significance Rank B2: Very High Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site contains a good (B-ranked) occurrence of a globally imperiled (G2G3/S2S3) plant community, *Pseudotsuga menziesii* / *Paxistima myrsinites*, and a poor (D-ranked) occurrence of a globally imperiled (G3?Q/S1) plant species, large-flowered globe-mallow (*Iliamna grandiflora*). There is also a good occurrence of a globally secure aspen wetland community.

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>
24778	<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i> / <i>Paxistima myrsinites</i> Forest	Lower Montane Forests	G2G3	S2S3	Yes
24883	<i>Populus tremuloides</i> / <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> Forest	Aspen Wetland Forests	G4	S3S4	No
19359	<i>Iliamna grandiflora</i>	large-flower globe-mallow	G3?Q	S1	No

REFERENCES

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

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date	05/10/1999
Version Author	Lyon, M.J.

Disclaimer

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