

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Berry Creek

Site Code S.USCOHP*20281

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 1643 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 394109N
State Colorado Longitude 1063405W

Quad Code Quad Name

39106-F5 Edwards

County

Eagle (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name

14010003 Eagle

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	7,400.00 Feet	2,255.52 Meters
Maximum Elevation	11,000.00 Feet	3,352.80 Meters

Site Description

The vegetation along Berry Creek is dominated by cottonwoods and several willow species. The uplands include mixed shrublands of mountain mahogany, sagebrush, pinon, and juniper. The site includes 3587 acres and ranges in elevation between 7,400 and 11,000 feet.

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 02/28/2000

Designer Wunder, M.B. and K.K. Fayette

Boundary Justification

The site includes the immediate watershed that supports the trout and also includes a small mesa nearby. The downstream boundary continues to a culvert at I-70, which represents an upstream migration barrier to exotic trout species such as brook trout (*Salmo fontinalis*). The globally rare Harrington's beardtongue is found scattered on the mesa. The mesa only includes a small portion of a larger occurrence of this plant. This portion is the only undeveloped tract.

Primary Area 3,576.77 Acres 1,447.47 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

The uplands that are included in the site support a good (B-ranked) occurrence of the globally rare (G3/S3) Harrington's beardtongue. Harrington's beardtongue (*Penstemon harringtonii*) is a globally vulnerable plant species that is restricted to Colorado and is found almost exclusively in sagebrush habitat. This species is only known from approximately 37 locations, all of which are centered near Edwards in Eagle County. In general, Harrington's beardtongue and its habitat are highly threatened from residential development. These threats in addition to a restricted range emphasize the urgent need for protection. Harrington's beardtongue populations are known to fluctuate in population numbers from year to year. Therefore, this specific location

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may be a higher priority than the current information reflects. This location is one of the smaller areas designated for protection of this species. Berry Creek also provides habitat for a good, albeit somewhat hybridized population of globally vulnerable (G4T3/S3) Colorado River cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarkii pleuriticus*). Perhaps more significantly, the site represents a fishery with a barrier to upstream migration by exotic species of trout. This feature will help to keep the current native fishery intact.

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>
19662	<i>Penstemon harringtonii</i>	Harrington beardtongue	G3	S3	Yes
21796	<i>Oncorhynchus clarkii pleuriticus</i>	Colorado River Cutthroat Trout	G4T3	S3	Yes
24961	<i>Salix drummondiana</i> / Mesic Forbs Shrubland	Drummonds Willow/Mesic Forb	G4	S4	No
24801	<i>Cercocarpus montanus</i> / <i>Pseudoroegneria spicata</i> Shrubland	Mixed Mountain Shrublands	G4	S3	No

REFERENCES

Reference ID Full Citation

- No Data

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date 02/28/2000

Version Author Wunder, M.B. and K.K. Fayette

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