

# Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Big Bend Creek

Site Code S.USCOHP\*4659

## IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 865 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>
2148	S.USCOHP*24990	Hermosa Creek

## LOCATORS

Nation United States Latitude 373522N  
State Colorado Longitude 1080040W

<u>Quad Code</u>	<u>Quad Name</u>
37107-E8	Elk Creek
37108-E1	Orphan Butte

### County

La Plata (CO)

<u>Watershed Code</u>	<u>Watershed Name</u>
14080104	Animas

## SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	8,600.00 Feet	2,621.00 Meters
Maximum Elevation	10,400.00 Feet	3,170.00 Meters

### Site Description

The Big Bend Creek site encompasses approximately 1.5 miles of the headwaters and major tributaries of Big Bend Creek. A waterfall at the downstream end of the site prevents the migration of non-native fish, preserving the genetic purity of the native cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarki pleuriticus*). Vegetation of the site is primarily spruce-fir forest, with openings of Thurber fescue (*Festuca thurberi*) meadows.

### Key Environmental Factors

No Data

### Climate Description

No Data

### Land Use History

No Data

### Cultural Features

No Data

## SITE DESIGN

Site Map P - Partial Mapped Date 06/01/1996  
Designer Loar, A.M. and C.C. Fleming

### Boundary Justification

The planning boundary encompasses the headwaters and major tributaries of Big Bend Creek above a barrier to non-native fish migration. A 1000-foot upland buffer is provided to limit direct physical disturbances and local hydrologic alteration.

Primary Area	1,766.54 Acres	714.90 Hectares
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## SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B5: General Biodiversity Interest

### Biodiversity Significance Comments

The site supports an unranked (E) occurrence of a globally vulnerable (G4T3) subspecies.

Other Values Rank No Data

### Other Values Comments

No Data

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## LAND MANAGEMENT ISSUES

### Land Use Comments

No Data

### Natural Hazard Comments

No Data

### Exotics Comments

No Data

### Offsite

[Loar and Fleming 1996:] Hydrological processes originating outside of the planning boundary, including water quality, quantity, flow and timing must be managed to maintain site viability.

### 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>
21796	<i>Oncorhynchus clarkii pleuriticus</i>	Colorado River Cutthroat Trout	G4T3	S3	Yes

## REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
184581	Lyon, P. 2003. Colorado Natural Heritage Program La Plata County Biological Assessment.

## ADDITIONAL TOPICS

### Additional Topics

No Data

## VERSION

Version Date 01/28/2004

Version Author Lyon, M.J.

## Disclaimer

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