

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Blue River at McCullough Gulch

Site Code S.USCOHP*10249

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 1957 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 392428N
State Colorado Longitude 1060300W

Quad Code Quad Name
39106-D1 Breckenridge

County

Watershed Code Watershed Name
14010002 Blue

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	10,200.00 Feet	3,108.96 Meters
Maximum Elevation	10,263.00 Feet	3,128.16 Meters

Site Description

The Blue River at McCullough Gulch site is a riparian wetland located between the Tenmile Range and the western base of Red Mountain. The wetland supports a two mile long alpine willow scrub (*Salix brachycarpa* / mesic forb) that is fed by the Blue River as it meanders through the site, as well as several springs that flow from the base of the Tenmile Range. This pristine wetland is adjacent to several subdivisions. There is no evidence of grazing from domestic animals, but the area is heavily used by wildlife, e.g., beaver, deer, elk. There are few weeds or hay grasses present. The site is approximately 300 acres and ranges in elevation from 10,200 to 10,263 feet.

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 10/17/1997
Designer Culver, D.R.

Boundary Justification

The boundary encompasses the willow carr and provides a 1,000 ft buffer to protect the site from immediate impacts (e.g., road improvements, development) to the community and the hydrology. A much larger area, including the full watershed of the Blue River, needs to be considered when developing a plan for long-term viability of the riparian community. This site was drawn after a 1997 visit by a CNHP wetland ecologist. The boundary was further verified using a 1988 National Aerial Photography Program 1:40,000 infrared aerial photograph.

Primary Area 144.33 Acres 58.41 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

The Blue River at McCullough Gulch site is one of the best remaining wetlands in the upper Blue River Basin. This site supports excellent (A-ranked) examples of two common communities, an alpine willow scrub

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(*Salix brachycarpa* / mesic forb) and a montane riparian shrubland (*Dasiphora fruticosa* ssp. *floribunda* / *Deschampsia caespitosa*) that are apparently secure on a global scale (G4). However, it is dissected by access roads to a bed and breakfast establishment. The site provides excellent potential habitat for the southern Rocky Mountain boreal toad, but was searched for toads in 1997 with negative results. The scientist feels that because of the area's uniqueness and quality, the site merits a B3 ranking.

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>
24806	<i>Salix brachycarpa</i> / Mesic Forbs Shrubland	Alpine Willow Scrub	G4	S4	Yes
24475	<i>Dasiphora fruticosa</i> ssp. <i>floribunda</i> / <i>Deschampsia caespitosa</i> Shrubland	Montane Riparian Shrubland	G4	S3S4	Yes

REFERENCES

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

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date 10/17/1997
Version Author Culver, D.R.

Disclaimer

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