

# Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Brush Creek at Skinner Ridge

Site Code S.USCOHP\*21722

## IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 1682 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 393554N  
State Colorado Longitude 1082852W

<u>Quad Code</u>	<u>Quad Name</u>
39108-E4	Desert Gulch
39108-E5	Henderson Ridge

County  
Garfield (CO)

<u>Watershed Code</u>	<u>Watershed Name</u>
14010006	Parachute-Roan

## SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	6,400.00 Feet	1,951.00 Meters
Maximum Elevation	8,000.00 Feet	2,438.00 Meters

### Site Description

Brush Creek has formed a steep valley surrounded by mostly barren shale slopes of the Green River formation. Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) and Utah serviceberry (*Amelanchier utahensis*) occur at the top of the slopes while Utah serviceberry and Gambel's oak (*Quercus gambelii*) occur near the base of the slopes. Box elder (*Acer negundo*) and choke-cherry (*Prunus virginiana*) dominate the overstory in the riparian areas. Richardson's geranium (*Geranium richardsonii*) is fairly abundant in the understory along the creek as are non-native species such as Kentucky bluegrass (*Poa pratensis*), houndstongue (*Cynoglossum officinale*), and dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*). The soils along the riparian area are mapped as the Debeque series, a loamy-skeletal, mixed, frigid, Eutic Haploboroll (Soil Conservation Service 1985). Heavy grazing may be altering normal nutrient cycles along the creek by contributing excess carbon/nutrients to the system and by disrupting the soil surface via hoof action, which might increase erosion and the rate of nutrient transformations in the soil. The presence of permanent water within such an arid landscape provides important habitat for numerous birds, mammals, and insects.

### 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 01/15/2001  
Designer Rocchio, F.J.

### Boundary Justification

The boundary encompasses the narrow riparian area, surrounding slopes, and some upstream drainages to ensure continued surface flow, periodic flooding, and opportunity for the creek's fluvial processes to maintain a dynamic distribution of riparian plant communities. These processes are necessary for the continued viability of the elements and maintenance of ecological functions. However, the entire upstream portion of the watershed was not included in the site boundaries. These areas need to be considered to ensure hydrological processes remain intact.

Primary Area 1,399.62 Acres 566.41 Hectares

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## SITE SIGNIFICANCE

**Biodiversity Significance Rank** B4: Moderate Biodiversity Significance

### Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site supports a fair (C-ranked) occurrence of the globally vulnerable (G3/S2) box elder/choke-cherry (*Acer negundo*/*Prunus virginiana*) montane riparian deciduous forest. This community is highly threatened by inappropriate stream alterations, heavy recreational use, and improper grazing.

**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 Rank</u>	<u>State Rank</u>	<u>Driving Site Rank</u>
<u>State ID</u>	<u>State Scientific Name</u>	<u>State Common Name</u>			
24678	<i>Acer negundo</i> / <i>Prunus virginiana</i> Forest	Montane Riparian Deciduous Forest	G3	S2	Yes

## REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
160919	Lyon, P. 2000. Colorado Natural Heritage Program Biological Assessment of Garfield County.
160810	Rocchio, J. 2000. Colorado Natural Heritage Program Wetland Inventory/Assessment of Garfield County.

## ADDITIONAL TOPICS

### Additional Topics

No Data

## VERSION

**Version Date** 01/15/2001  
**Version Author** Rocchio, F.J.

## Disclaimer

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