

# Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Butler Creek

Site Code S.USCOHP\*3985

## IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 1878 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 394434N  
State Colorado Longitude 1074511W

<u>Quad Code</u>	<u>Quad Name</u>
39107-F7	Horse Mountain
39107-G6	Triangle Park
39107-F6	Rifle Falls
39107-G7	Red Elephant Point

## County

Garfield (CO)

<u>Watershed Code</u>	<u>Watershed Name</u>
14010005	Colorado headwaters-Plateau

## SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	6,595.00 Feet	2,010.00 Meters
Maximum Elevation	9,557.00 Feet	2,913.00 Meters

## Site Description

The Butler Creek PCA contains three tributaries that ultimately feed Middle Rifle Creek; the most prominent of these tributaries is Butler Creek. George and Parker Creeks, associated tributaries of Butler Creek, are also included within the PCA. The vegetation is characterized by mixed forest with Gambel's oak (*Quercus gambelii*), aspen (*Populus tremuloides*), and spruce-fir (*Picea-Abies*). At the headwaters of Butler Creek there are large grass meadows intermixed with big sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*) shrubland. Approximately 50% of this PCA is on White River National Forest land, with the remainder split evenly between BLM land and privately owned land. All of the Parker Creek drainage is privately owned. Substratum in the PCA consists of shale, limestone and sandstone of the Pennsylvanian Minturn and Belden formations. There are also sedimentary rocks of the pre-Pennsylvanian Paleozoic Age. There is a population of Colorado River cutthroat Trout in the Butler Creek drainage that is protected from invasion by other trout species by a 75-foot falls.

## 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 04/09/1996  
Designer Fleming, C.C.

## Boundary Justification

The planning boundary includes the headwaters and major tributaries of Butler Creek including George and Parker creeks to the downstream barrier. A 1,000 foot upland buffer is provided to limit direct physical disturbance and local hydrologic alterations. Riparian areas were included because of their importance in maintaining bank stability to protect water quality.

Primary Area 4,357.50 Acres 1,763.42 Hectares

## SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B4: Moderate Biodiversity Significance

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## Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site supports a good (B-ranked) occurrence of a globally vulnerable subspecies.

**Other Values Rank** No Data

## Other Values Comments

No Data

## LAND MANAGEMENT ISSUES

## Land Use Comments

The entire PCA (Forest Service, BLM and private land) has been grazed intensely for decades.

## Natural Hazard Comments

No Data

## Exotics Comments

No Data

## Offsite

Hydrological processes originating outside of the planning boundary, including water quality, quantity, and timing, must be managed to maintain the population viability.

## Information Needs

Need to determine whether Big Parker Creek has trout or whether it is too dry. Need to confirm location of barriers.

## 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>
-	No Data

## ADDITIONAL TOPICS

## Additional Topics

No Data

## VERSION

**Version Date** 12/17/2000  
**Version Author** Sovell, J. R.

## Disclaimer

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