

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Calf Canyon

Site Code S.USCOHP*21704

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 1948 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 393409N
State Colorado Longitude 1084424W

Quad Code Quad Name
39108-E6 Calf Canyon

County
Garfield (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name
14010005 Colorado headwaters-Plateau

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	6,900.00	Feet	2,103.00	Meters
Maximum Elevation	7,600.00	Feet	2,316.00	Meters

Site Description

This site occurs in a remote canyon surrounded by steep, 500 foot sandstone and shale cliff faces. There are seeps and springs scattered throughout the site. These seeps and springs are crucial to maintaining flow in the creek. At the location in which the elements are found a seep emerges in a small "bowl" of sandstone and shale supporting wetland vegetation. The spring-fed creek supports river birch (*Betula occidentalis*), red-osier dogwood (*Cornus sericea*), Bebb's willow (*Salix bebbiana*), and aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) with a minimal understory of herbaceous plants due to flood scouring. Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), Utah serviceberry (*Amelanchier utahensis*), snowberry (*Symphoricarpos rotundifolia*), Gambel's oak (*Quercus gambelii*), and wild rose (*Rosa woodsii*) are found growing in mesic areas near the creek. Soils are mapped as the Empedrado series, a fine-loamy, mixed, Frigid, Typic Argiborolls. These soils form in alluvium and eolian material and permeability is moderate (Soil Conservation Service 1992). However, considering that the riparian area here is very narrow, it is quite possible that the soils supporting the elements are not the Empedrado and are more likely to be some type of entisol. No soil descriptions were taken from this site, thus classification of the true soil type was not feasible. Heavy grazing may be altering normal nutrient cycles along the creek and in the seep area by contributing excess carbon/nutrients to the system and by disrupting the soil surface via hoof action, which might increase the rate of certain nutrient transformations in the soil. Although the riparian and seep areas are small, 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

Surrounding slopes, upstream drainages, and nearby seeps and springs are encompassed in the boundaries in order to ensure continued hydrological flow and periodic flooding, which are necessary for the continued viability of the elements.

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Primary Area 854.64 Acres

345.86 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site supports a good (B-ranked) occurrence of the globally vulnerable (G3/S2) *Eleocharis rostellata* emergent wetland and a good (B-ranked) occurrence of *Betula occidentalis* / *Maianthemum stellatum* riparian shrubland. Colorado ecologists regard the birch association as more threatened (G3) than is reflected in the global community concept (G4). There is also a good (B-ranked) occurrence of the state rare (G4Q/S3) *Cornus sericea* foothills riparian shrubland.

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>			
24686	<i>Betula occidentalis</i> / <i>Maianthemum stellatum</i> Shrubland	Foothills Riparian Shrubland	G4?	S2	Yes
22992	<i>Cornus sericea</i> Shrubland	Foothills Riparian Shrubland	G4Q	S3	No
18216	<i>Eleocharis rostellata</i> Herbaceous Vegetation	Emergent Wetland	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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