

# Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name California Park

Site Code S.USWRO1\*1386

## IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 707 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 404532N  
State Colorado Longitude 1070755W

### Quad Code Quad Name

40107-G1	Meaden Peak
40107-G2	Bears Ears Peaks
40107-F2	Quaker Mountain
40107-F1	Pilot Knob

### County

Routt (CO)

### Watershed Code Watershed Name

14050001	Upper Yampa
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## SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation - Feet - Meters

Maximum Elevation - Feet - Meters

### Site Description

California Park is a montane park that contains prominent wetlands, encompassing a 3.2 km (2 mi) long area of wetland habitat dominated by seasonally flooded willow shrublands. Elkhead Creek drains the site flowing southwest to its confluence with the Yampa River, east of Craig. There are several first and second order creeks that flow through the site: First, Second, Armstrong, Jokodowski, and Stuckey. California Park is located west of the Elkhead Mountains within an elevational range of 2350 to 2275 m (7840 to 7910 ft). It lies in a narrow to moderately wide floodplain at the base of several 3000 m (10000 ft) peaks, including Meaden Peak, Quaker Mountain, and Sugarloaf Mountain. The site is moderately to heavily grazed during mid to late summer by sheep and cows. It appears that some parts of California Park were once hayed, as evidenced by the uniform rows of timothy (*Phleum pratense*). Access to California Park is restricted from Nov. 1 to July 1 to protect the nesting habitat of sandhill cranes. The beaver activity is sparse; only a few dams were observed.

### 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 01/13/1995

Designer Ellingson, A.R.

### Boundary Justification

The boundary encompasses the Park, a small forested buffer on the surrounding slopes, and the drainage. It should be sufficient to protect significant natural communities and breeding habitat of wetland and upland birds, from direct disturbance or degradation, fragmentation of habitat, local invasion of exotic plants, local alteration of hydrology. Management of certain activities within the boundary should be considered for season restrictions.

Primary Area 11,369.42 Acres 4,601.06 Hectares

## SITE SIGNIFICANCE

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Biodiversity Significance Rank B4: Moderate Biodiversity Significance

## Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site encompasses a fair occurrence of the *Salix boothii*/Mesic graminoid (G3 S3) community, a *Salix boothii*/Mesic forb community (G3 S3), an extant occurrence for *Grus canadensis tabida*, Sandhill crane (G5T4 S2B,S4N), and two historical records for *Oncorhynchus clarki pleuriticus*, Colorado River cutthroat trout (G4T3 S3). The Sandhill crane is listed as federally sensitive by the U.S. Forest Service and is a Colorado threatened species. The Colorado River cutthroat trout was a candidate species (C2) with the federal government. It is presently listed as U.S.F.S. sensitive species and a Colorado species of special concern. This site is significant because of the high quality occurrence for Sandhill crane nesting habitat. The site is considered of national significance (B3). California Park contains important wetland communities including Willow carrs and Willow/Mesic graminoid shrublands. There are historical records of the Boreal toad. The area is of state significance for its occurrence of the Sandhill crane.

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

The wetland and riparian systems that support these elements are dependent on the natural hydrologic regime. Any activities within the watershed that potentially affect the hydrology should be evaluated for their impact. Also, off-site foraging area for cranes will be needed.

### Information Needs

No Data

## ASSOCIATED ELEMENTS OF BIODIVERSITY

<u>Element State ID</u>	<u>State Scientific Name</u>	<u>State Common Name</u>	<u>Global Rank</u>	<u>State Rank</u>	<u>Driving Site Rank</u>
24614	<i>Salix boothii</i> / Mesic Graminoids Shrubland	Riparian Willow Carr	G3?	S3	Yes
21796	<i>Oncorhynchus clarkii pleuriticus</i>	Colorado River Cutthroat Trout	G4T3	S3	No
20351	<i>Bufo boreas</i> pop. 1	Boreal Toad (Southern Rocky Mountain Population)	G4T1Q	S1	Yes
40645	<i>Calamagrostis stricta</i> Herbaceous Vegetation [Provisional]	Slimstem Reedgrass	GU	S1?	Yes
23668	<i>Grus canadensis tabida</i>	Greater Sandhill Crane	G5T4	S2B,S4N	No
23668	<i>Grus canadensis tabida</i>	Greater Sandhill Crane	G5T4	S2B,S4N	No
24734	<i>Salix boothii</i> / Mesic Forbs Shrubland	Booth's Willow/Mesic Forb	G3	S3	Yes

## REFERENCES

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

## ADDITIONAL TOPICS

### Additional Topics

No Data

## VERSION

<b>Version Date</b>	01/13/1995
<b>Version Author</b>	Ellingson, A.R.

## Disclaimer

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