

# Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Canyon Creek at Ouray

Site Code S.USCOHP\*5067

## IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 1825 Site Class PCA  
Site Alias Canyon Creek

### 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 380017N  
State Colorado Longitude 1074131W

### Quad Code Quad Name

38107-A6 Ouray  
37107-H6 Ironton

### County

Ouray (CO)

### Watershed Code Watershed Name

14020006 Uncompahange

## SITE DESCRIPTION

<b>Minimum Elevation</b>	7,960.00	<b>Feet</b>	2,426.00	<b>Meters</b>
<b>Maximum Elevation</b>	9,000.00	<b>Feet</b>	2,743.00	<b>Meters</b>

### Site Description

Canyon Creek forms a steep canyon, with good condition riparian vegetation in some areas. Disturbances in the canyon are frequent, but natural. The canyonsides are subject to landslides, while the creek shows evidence of periodic flooding. The stream has a wide channel, with large rounded boulders and cobbles. At the lower end of the site, narrowleaf cottonwood forests and thinleaf alder predominate, while upstream blue spruce and Engelmann spruce become more abundant. North facing rock ledges support a thick cover of mosses and mat saxifrage. There are numerous homes and trails on the downstream end of the site. Most traffic is by foot or horse. The Camp Bird Road (Colorado Highway 361) parallels the creek at the top of the canyon. Traffic on the road is heavy, but users stay on the road. There is some camping where the road crosses the creek at the upstream end of the site.

### 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 08/08/1996

Designer Grunau, T.L.

### Boundary Justification

The boundary is drawn to protect occurrences from trampling and other direct surface disturbance, and to protect hydrologic processes. Buffers of approximately 1/2 mile upstream (including tributaries) and 1000' downstream should protect riparian communities from direct or indirect disturbance, including but not limited to, exotic species invasion, physical alteration, or local hydrologic alteration.

Primary Area 264.08 Acres 106.87 Hectares

## SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

### Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site supports a good (B-ranked) occurrence of a globally vulnerable (G3/S3) montane riparian forests

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(*Populus angustifolia* - *Picea pungens* - *Alnus incana*) and a good (B-ranked) occurrence of the state rare (G4/S3) *Abies lasiocarpa* - *Picea engelmannii* - *Populus angustifolia* / *Lonicera involucrata* riparian forest.

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

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

### 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>
24832	<i>Abies lasiocarpa</i> - <i>Picea engelmannii</i> - <i>Populus angustifolia</i> / <i>Lonicera involucrata</i> Forest	Montane Riparian Forest	G4	S3	No
24528	<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i> / <i>Acer glabrum</i> Forest	Lower Montane Forests	G4?	S1	No
24696	<i>Abies concolor</i> / <i>Mahonia repens</i> Forest	Mixed Montane Forests	G5	S4	No
24823	<i>Populus angustifolia</i> - <i>Picea pungens</i> / <i>Alnus incana</i> Woodland	Montane Riparian Forests	G3	S3	Yes

## REFERENCES

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

## ADDITIONAL TOPICS

### Additional Topics

No Data

## VERSION

Version Date 06/30/2003

Version Author Bell, J.B.

## Disclaimer

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