

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Cascade Creek at Purgatory

Site Code S.USCOHP*23731

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 1681 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 374114N
State Colorado Longitude 1075013W

Quad Code Quad Name
37107-F7 Engineer Mountain

County
San Juan (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name
14080104 Animas

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	8,796.00 Feet	2,681.00 Meters
Maximum Elevation	9,600.00 Feet	2,926.00 Meters

Site Description

The Cascade Creek at Purgatory site is a narrow, riparian corridor located in southern San Juan County. Cascade Creek flows south between Engineer Mountaineer to the northeast and Graysill Mountain the southwest. Cascade Creek is fed by several tributaries that include: Engine Creek, Graysill Creek, EZ Creek, Pando Creek, and Camp Creek. The riparian vegetation is dominated by blue spruce (*Picea pungens*) with alder (*Alnus incana*), Drummond's willow (*Salix drummondiana*), and Rocky Mountain willow (*Salix monticola*). The drier slopes are dominated by Engelmann spruce (*Picea engelmannii*).

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 01/07/2003
Designer Culver, D.R.

Boundary Justification

The boundary is drawn to include the Cascade Creek floodplain from the confluence of Graysill and Engine Creeks to Highway 550. The boundaries incorporate an area that will allow natural hydrological processes such as seasonal flooding, sediment deposition, and new channel formation to maintain viable populations of the wetland. It should be noted that the hydrological processes necessary to the riparian elements are not fully contained by the site boundaries. Given that the elements are dependent on natural hydrological processes associated with Cascade Creek, any upstream activities such as water diversions, impoundments, and mining development could potentially be detrimental to the wetland. This boundary indicates the minimum area that should be considered for any conservation management plan.

Primary Area 620.83 Acres 251.24 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site supports an excellent (A-ranked) occurrence of a globally vulnerable (G3/S3) montane riparian forest plant community. This is the best observed occurrence of this plant association during the 2002 field

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Cascade Creek at Purgatory
survey.

Site Code S.USCOHP*23731

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</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>
24518	<i>Picea pungens</i> / <i>Alnus incana</i> Woodland	Montane Riparian Forests	G3	S3	Yes

REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
158301	Culver, D.R. and P. Lyon. 2002. Colorado Natural Heritage Program Field Survey to San Juan County.
163571	Lyon, P. and D. Culver. 2002. Colorado Natural Heritage Program Field Surveys.

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date 01/07/2003
Version Author Culver, D.R.

Disclaimer

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Cascade Creek at Purgatory

Site Code S.USCOHP*23731

These data are a product and property of Colorado State University, Colorado Natural Heritage Program (CNHP). These data are strictly "on loan" and should be considered "works in progress". Data maintained in the Colorado Natural Heritage Program database are an integral part of ongoing research at CSU and reflect the observations of many scientists, institutions and our current state of knowledge. These data are acquired from various sources, with varying levels of accuracy, and are continually being updated and revised. Many areas have never been surveyed and the absence of data in any particular geographic area does not necessarily mean that species or ecological communities of concern are not present. These data should not be regarded as a substitute for on-site surveys required for environmental assessments. Absence of evidence is NOT evidence of absence. Absence of any data does not mean that other resources of special concern do not occur, but rather CNHP files do not currently contain information to document this presence. CNHP is not responsible for whether other, non-CNHP data providers have secured landowner permission for data collected.

These data are provided for non-commercial purposes only. Under no circumstances are data to be distributed in any fashion to outside parties. To ensure accurate application of data, tabular and narrative components must be evaluated in conjunction with spatial components. Failure to do so constitutes a misuse of the data. The Colorado Natural Heritage Program shall have no liability or responsibility to the data users, or any other person or entity with respect to liability, loss, or damage caused or alleged to be caused directly or indirectly by the data, including but not limited to any interruption of service, loss of business, anticipatory profits or indirect, special, or consequential damages resulting from the use of operation of the data. Data users hereby agree to hold CNHP, Colorado State University, and the State of Colorado harmless from any claim, demand, cause of action, loss, damage or expense from or related to data users use of or reliance on the data, regardless of the cause or nature thereof, and even in the event that such cause is attributable to the negligence or misconduct of CNHP.

These data are provided on an as-is basis, as-available basis without warranties of any kind, expressed or implied, INCLUDING (BUT NOT LIMITED TO) WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY, FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE, AND NON-INFRINGEMENT. Although CNHP maintains high standards of data quality control, CNHP, Colorado State University, and the State of Colorado further expressly disclaim any warranty that the data are error-free or current as of the date supplied