

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Cataract Creek

Site Code S.USCOHP*10253

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 593 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 395038N
State Colorado Longitude 1061753W

Quad Code Quad Name
39106-G3 Mount Powell

County
Summit (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name
14010002 Blue

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	8,360.00 Feet	2,548.00 Meters
Maximum Elevation	8,420.00 Feet	2,566.00 Meters

Site Description

The Cataract Creek site is located between the eastern side of the Gore Range and Green Mountain Reservoir. Cataract Creek is fed by several intermittent streams and numerous springs. It supports several riparian and wetland communities which include ponds with broad-leaf cattail marsh (*Typha latifolia*) and riparian areas that are dominated by thinleaf alder / Geyer willow (*Alnus incana* / *Salix geyeriana*). The site includes a U.S. Forest Service campground, hay fields, irrigation ditches, homes, and several access roads. The site is approximately 600 acres, ranging in elevation from 2508 m (8,360 ft.) to 2526 m (8,420 ft.).

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 12/09/1996
Designer Culver, D.R.

Boundary Justification

The boundary drawn encompass all the elements and provides a buffer of 1,000 foot to protect the hydrology and waterway from direct impacts such as, water diversion or development.

Primary Area 640.59 Acres 259.24 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

The Cataract Creek site supports a fair example of the globally rare Clustered sedge wetland (*Carex praegracilis*). There are only 5 occurrences of Clustered sedge wetlands known in Colorado; three of these are located in Summit County (CNHP 1997). There is also a historical occurrence of the state rare (G4G5/S1) low northern sedge (*Carex concinna*) and an extant occurrence of the Colorado River cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarkii pleuriticus*), a U.S. Forest Service sensitive and state special concern species. This occurrence was documented in 1992. It was observed that there was a mixed population of Brook and native trout below a 75 ft. waterfall, however, above the barrier there were only native trout. Lynx (*Felis lynx*

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canadensis), a U.S. Forest Service sensitive and state endangered species, have been documented in the site.

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>
17689	<i>Carex concinna</i>	low northern sedge	G4G5	S1	No
18593	<i>Carex praegracilis</i> Herbaceous Vegetation	Clustered Sedge Wetland	G3G4	S2	No
24911	<i>Populus tremuloides</i> / <i>Alnus incana</i> Forest	Montane Riparian Forests	G3	S3	Yes
21796	<i>Oncorhynchus clarkii pleuriticus</i>	Colorado River Cutthroat Trout	G4T3	S3	No

REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
165258	Culver, D.R. 1997. Colorado Natural Heritage Program Wetland Assessments for the 1997 Summit County Wetlands Inventory.

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date 12/09/1996
Version Author Culver, D.R.

Disclaimer

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