

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Cattle Creek at Coulter Creek

Site Code S.USCOHP*16348

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 1299 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 392746N
State Colorado Longitude 1070929W

Quad Code Quad Name
39107-D2 Carbondale

County
Garfield (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name
14010004 Roaring Fork

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation - Feet - Meters
Maximum Elevation - Feet - Meters

Site Description

This PCA ranges in elevation from about 6600 to 7200 feet and is characterized by Gambel's oak (*Quercus gambellii*) shrublands on the north-facing slopes, pinyon-juniper (*Pinus edulis*-*Juniperus osteosperma*) and sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*) communities on south-facing slopes, and a blue spruce-alder (*Picea pungens*-*Alnus incana*) community in the riparian area. The oak shrubland (*Quercus gambellii*-*Cercocarpus montanus*/*Carex geyeri*) is considered to be a globally-vulnerable community type and also supports a diverse combination of other species such as pinyon pine (*Pinus edulis*), Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), serviceberry (*Amelanchier utahensis*), snowberry (*Symphoricarpos rotundifolius*), big sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*), and mountain lover (*Paxistima*) in low cover. The blue spruce/dogwood (*Picea pungens*/*Cornus sericea*) riparian community is considered to be rare in Colorado, and also supports a diversity of other shrubs and trees such as a coyote willow (*Salix exigua*), yellow willow (*Salix monticola*), chokecherry (*Prunus virginiana*), Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), and alder (*Alnus incana*). This small area is in good condition overall, however there is a road that follows Cattle Creek and a power line that passes through the western portion of the PCA. The activity along these thorough ways are creating erosion and weed problems. A total of 543 acres are included in the PCA boundaries.

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 02/15/1999
Designer Spackman, S.C.

Boundary Justification

This PCA includes the mosaic of community types in which the element occurrences are found. The surrounding high quality habitat is included to protect the occurrences from direct disturbances, such as trampling, and indirect disturbances, such as unnatural erosion. The PCA also provides additional suitable habitat to allow for natural migration of the communities over time. A much larger area should be considered in order to protect the hydrological processes that support the riparian community.

Primary Area 543.74 Acres 220.04 Hectares

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SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B4: Moderate Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

This PCA includes a fair occurrence of a globally-vulnerable mixed mountain shrubland (*Quercus gambelii*-*Cercocarpus montanus*/*Carex geyeri*). This community type is only known from 33 locations in Colorado. The PCA also includes a fair example of a state-rare montane riparian forest (*Picea pungens*/*Cornus sericea*), which has only been documented in 21 locations in Colorado.

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>
24685	<i>Quercus gambelii</i> - <i>Cercocarpus montanus</i> / (<i>Carex geyeri</i>) Shrubland	Mixed Mountain Shrublands	G3	S3	Yes

REFERENCES

Reference ID Full Citation

- No Data

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date 02/15/1999

Version Author Spackman, S.C.

Disclaimer

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