

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Cement Creek Iron Fen

Site Code S.USCOHP*23594

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 1006 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 375125N
State Colorado Longitude 1074034W

Quad Code Quad Name

37107-G6 Silverton
37107-H6 Ironton

County

San Juan (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name

14080104 Animas

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	10,200.00 Feet	3,109.00 Meters
Maximum Elevation	11,300.00 Feet	3,444.00 Meters

Site Description

Cement Creek is located northwest of the Town of Silverton and south of the Town of Gladstone. Cement Creek flows along a steep, narrow valley, with peaks on both sides ascending to over 13,000 feet. The creek runs through the center of the Silverton Caldera, which is composed of Oligocene andesitic lavas. Iron fens and associated limonite ledges can be found along 4 miles of Cement Creek starting just south of the Town of Gladstone. The most prominent iron fens are located at the Tiger Gulch and Topeka Gulch. The Cement Creek Iron Fens are fed by groundwater seeping from eastern and western valley walls as well as overflow from Cement Creek. A common feature of iron fens is limonite terraces or iron precipitates that have been deposited onto organic matter in layers. These terraces will perch the water table and form an extensive network of pools and ponds, Cement Creek Iron Fens are good examples of this process. Cement Creek Iron Fens are dominated by acid-tolerant shrubs with a thick ground cover of a variety of Sphagnum spp. and other mosses. Engelmann spruce (*Picea engelmannii*) dominates the tree layer. Bog birch (*Betula glandulosa*) and dwarf blueberry (*Vaccinium cespitosum*) dominate the shrub layer. Mosses, bluejoint (*Calamagrostis canadensis*), water sedge (*Carex aquatilis*), and alpine spicy wintergreen (*Gaultheria humifusa*) dominate the herbaceous layer.

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 12/17/2002
Designer Culver, D.R.

Boundary Justification

The boundary is drawn to include the Cement Creek floodplain from Gladstone to just above the confluence of Cement Creek with the Animas River. 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

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on natural hydrological processes associated with Cement 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 607.35 Acres 245.79 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B2: Very High Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site supports a good occurrence (B-ranked) of a globally imperiled (G2/S2) iron fen plant community. Currently there are only 15 known iron fens known globally, five of which occur in San Juan County.

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 Rank</u>	<u>State Rank</u>	<u>Driving Site Rank</u>
<u>State ID</u>	<u>State Scientific Name</u>	<u>State Common Name</u>			
24847	(<i>Picea engelmannii</i>) / <i>Betula nana</i> / <i>Carex aquatilis</i> - <i>Sphagnum angustifolium</i> Woodland	Iron Fen	G2	S2	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.

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date 12/17/2002
Version Author Culver, D.R.

Disclaimer

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