

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Ceran Saint Vrain

Site Code S.USCOHP*27274

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 2504 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 400751N
State Colorado Longitude 1052714W

Quad Code Quad Name

40105-A4 Gold Hill
40105-B4 Raymond

County

Watershed Code Watershed Name

10190005 St. Vrain

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	7,920.00 Feet	2,414.02 Meters
Maximum Elevation	8,940.00 Feet	2,724.91 Meters

Site Description

The Ceran Saint Vrain site is located in west-central Boulder County, about three miles west of Jamestown. South St. Vrain Creek originates below Isabelle Glacier in the Indian Peaks Wilderness, eleven miles to the southwest, and flows through the site before joining Middle St. Vrain Creek some three miles northeast of the site. Just below Highway 72, the creek flows through an open, flat-bottomed valley before descending into a narrow canyon. Along the lower stretch of the creek, the channel and associated riparian vegetation is constrained by the surrounding topography. The stream gradient is not steep (<5%), but the surrounding slopes rise quickly from the stream channel. The creek itself is 23 ft-39 ft (7-12 m wide), clear and fast moving. The riparian corridor is 66-98 ft (20-30 m) wide, supporting a narrow, mixed riparian shrubland. The tall shrub 7-16 ft (2-5 m) layer is dominated by 20% cover each of alder (*Alnus incana*) and Drummond's willow (*Salix drummondiana*), but contains numerous other shrub species at 10% cover or less. Associated tall shrubs include Pacific willow (*Salix lucida* ssp. *lasiandra*), Rocky Mountain maple (*Acer glabrum*), Bebb willow (*Salix bebbiana*), and park willow (*Salix monticola*). The understory is also diverse and contains mixed graminoids and forbs. The most prevalent species is bluejoint reedgrass (*Calamagrostis canadensis*) at 20% cover. Other important herbaceous species include cowparsnip (*Heracleum maximum*), fireweed (*Chamerion angustifolium*), and horsetail (*Equisetum arvense*). This riparian shrubland is quite narrow, 10-20 ft (3-6 m) wide on either side of the creek, and transitions quickly into the surrounding upland forest. Slopes to both the east and west contain Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), lodgepole pine (*Pinus contorta*), and ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*), with occasional unvegetated rocky crags.

Key Environmental Factors

Moderate seasonal variation in water flow.

Climate Description

No Data

Land Use History

No Data

Cultural Features

No Data

SITE DESIGN

Site Map Y - Yes Mapped Date 06/10/2008

Designer Decker, K.L. and J.M. Lemly

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the occurrence and the immediate watershed below Hwy 72, allowing for the

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Ceran Saint Vrain

Site Code S.USCOHP*27274

operation of normal hydrological and ecological processes that support the wetland community, and providing a buffer against direct disturbance. These natural processes are not completely contained in the boundary, and offsite activities within the larger watershed have the potential to impact the significant biological resources in the area.

Primary Area 2,890.01 Acres 1,169.55 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) *Alnus incana* - *Salix drummondiana* montane riparian shrubland and an excellent to good (AB-ranked) occurrence of a globally vulnerable (G3G4/S3S4) lodgepole pine forest, *Pinus contorta* / *Shepherdia canadensis*.

Other Values Rank No Data

Other Values Comments

No Data

LAND MANAGEMENT ISSUES

Land Use Comments

The trail following the creek is heavily used for hiking, camping, and fishing. Because of heavy use, there is a noticeable impact on the stream bank. Numerous social trails split off from the main trail and follow close to the bank. There are also several well established campsites with fires rings along the creek. There is evidence of some human manipulation of the channel bed, including logs placed in the stream and some bank stabilization.

Natural Hazard Comments

No Data

Exotics Comments

There are nonnative species within the understory, but they contribute low cover and are primarily along the trail. Species include: Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), timothy (*Phleum pratense*), and Kentucky bluegrass (*Poa pratensis*).

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>
24743	<i>Alnus incana</i> - <i>Salix drummondiana</i> Shrubland	Montane Riparian Shrubland	G3	S3	Yes
24983	<i>Pinus contorta</i> / <i>Shepherdia canadensis</i> Forest	Persistent Lodgepole Pine Forests	G3G4	S3S4	Yes

REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
195190	Neid, S., J. Lemly, K. Decker and D. Culver. 2009. Final Report: Survey of Critical Biological Resources in Boulder County 2007-2008. Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Fort Collins, CO.

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date 06/10/2008
Version Author Decker, K.L. and J.M. Lemly

Disclaimer

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Ceran Saint Vrain

Site Code S.USCOHP*27274

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