Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Coldwater Creek at Skunk Creek **Site Code** S.USCOHP*4592

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 1024 **Site Class** PCA

Site Alias None

Network of Conservation Areas (NCA)

NCA Site ID	NCA Site Code	NCA Site Name
-		No Data

LOCATORS

Nation United States **Latitude** 372325N

State Colorado **Longitude** 1072028W

Quad Code	Quad Name
37107-D3	Bear Mountain

County

Archuleta (CO)

Watershed Code	Watershed Name
14080102	Piedra

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation 7,800.00 **Feet** 2,377.00 **Meters**

Maximum Elevation 8,840.00 **Feet** 2,694.00 **Meters**

Site Description

The Coldwater Creek at Skunk Creek site encompasses a small drainage on the east slope of Coldwater Creek with a flow that seems to diminish down slope towards the creek. This unique spot is free of impacts from the nearby trail running along Coldwater Creek and the entire area seems wet, although flow in the drainage is low. White fir (Abies concolor) and aspen (Populus tremuloides) dominate the overstory, but comprise a cover of only 5%. The shrub layer is dominated by wild rose (Rosa woodsii) and serviceberry (Amelanchier alnifolia). The most common forbs are Richardson's geranium (Geranium richardsonii) and cutleaf coneflower (Rudbeckia lacinata). Aspen (Populus tremuloides) and Spruce (Picea spp.) dominate the riparian area along Coldwater Creek and a large population of wood lily (Lilium philadelphicum), an uncommon plant in Colorado, is present in the ground cover. This species was formerly tracked by CNHP, but is now watchlisted. Within the site is a highly productive and vigorous Aspen/Tall Forb (Populus tremuloides/Tall Forb) Montane Forest with surprisingly very few exotic plants considering it is near a trail along Coldwater Creek that sees high use by horse riders and cattle.

Key Environmental Factors

No Data

Climate Description

No Data

Land Use History

No Data

Cultural Features

No Data

SITE DESIGN

Site Map P - Partial **Mapped Date** 06/01/1996

Designer Loar, A.M. and C.C. Fleming

Boundary Justification

The boundary encompasses the montane aspen forest as well as a small buffer to limit direct disturbance from activities associated with the trail along Coldwater Creek. It should be noted that the hydrological processes necessary to the plant population and aspen forest are not fully contained by the site boundaries. Given that they are dependent on natural hydrological processes associated with the drainage activities in the upper drainage such as improper livestock grazing, and logging are detrimental to the hydrology of the drainage. This boundary indicates the minimum area that should be considered for any conservation management plan.

Primary Area 161.32 **Acres** 65.29 **Hectares**

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SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B4: Moderate Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site contains an excellent (A-ranked) occurrence of a common plant community which is secure (G5/S5) on a global scale. As of 1996, this particular montane aspen forest is the best known occurrence of this community type within Archuleta County.

Other Values Rank No Data

Other Values Comments

No Data

LAND MANAGMENT ISSUES

Land Use Comments

No Data

Natural Hazard Comments

No Data

Exotics Comments

No Data

Offsite

Hydrological processes originating outside the planning boundary, including water quality, quantity, timing and flow must be managed to maintain site viability.

Information Needs

No Data

ASSOCIATED ELEMENTS OF BIODIVERSITY

Element State ID	State Scientific Name	State Common Name	Global Rank	State Rank	Driving Site Rank
24717	*Populus tremuloides* / Tall Forbs Forest	Montane Aspen Forest	G5	S5	Yes

REFERENCES

Reference ID	Full Citation
170844	Randolph, D., Smith, Kettler, Redders, Roy, and Aitken. 1994. San Juan National Forest Riparian Site Survey.
193472	Sovell, J., P. Lyon, and L. Grunau. 2003. Final Report: Upper San Juan Biological Assessment. Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Fort Collins, CO.

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date 05/15/1997

Version Author Fleming, C.C.

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