

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Como Creek

Site Code S.USCOHP1*2048

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 1543 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 400114N
State Colorado Longitude 1053206W

Quad Code Quad Name

40105-A5	Ward
40105-A4	Gold Hill
39105-H5	Nederland

County

Watershed Code Watershed Name

10190005 St. Vrain

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	8,350.00 Feet	2,545.08 Meters
Maximum Elevation	10,800.00 Feet	3,291.84 Meters

Site Description

Flowing east out of the Indian Peaks Wilderness, Como Creek stretches approximately seven miles to its junction with North Boulder Creek. The creek is dominated by willow (*Salix* spp), alder (*Alnus* spp), blue spruce (*Picea pungens*), and aspen (*Populus tremuloides*). There are large hay meadows adjacent also. The uplands are predominantly lodgepole pine (*Pinus contorta*) with some ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*). There are many water diversions in the area, including pipelines and reservoirs. All of these disturbances are below the element occurrences; however, they do fall in the site. Roads, trails and highways also occur within the site 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 10/02/1998

Designer Wunder, M.B. and K.K. Fayette

Boundary Justification

The water quality and flow of Como Creek is important to the survival of the elements found here. The site takes in the headwaters and the uplands directly adjacent to the creek in response to this need.

Primary Area 2,943.95 Acres 1,191.38 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

The globally imperiled (G4T2T3/S2) and federally threatened greenback cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarkii stomias*) is one of three native subspecies of trout in Colorado. This site has a fair (C-ranked) and historic occurrence of this rare trout. Additional locations of greenback cutthroat trout in Colorado are restricted to the Front Range and are few in number. A recent genetic analysis by Metcalf et al. (2007)

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indicates that Como Creek is one of four pure greenback cutthroat sites within its native range, although the population found there may have originated in the Arkansas River drainage. Three specimens of the state rare (G4/S3) umbilicate sprite (*Promenetus umbilicatellus*) were documented in the 1930s.

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

Brook trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*) occur in the stream.

Offsite

No Data

Information Needs

A boreal toad recorded at this site was last observed in 1963. Need to survey to determine whether or not this occurrence is extant at this site.

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>
16680	<i>Oncorhynchus clarkii stomias</i>	Greenback Cutthroat Trout	G4T2T3	S2	No
16680	<i>Oncorhynchus clarkii stomias</i>	Greenback Cutthroat Trout	G4T2T3	S2	Yes

REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
195169	Metcalfe, J. L., V. L. Pritchard, S. M. Silvestri, J. B. Jenkins, J. S. Wood, D. E. Cowley, R. P. Evans, D. K. Shiozawa, and A. P. Martin. 2007. Across the great divide: genetic forensics reveals misidentification of endangered cutthroat trout populations. <i>Molecular Ecology</i> 16:4445-4454.
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

Original site design by Wunder, M.B. and K.K. Fayette. 1998-10-02

VERSION

Version Date 01/28/2009
Version Author Siemers, J.L.

Disclaimer

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