

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Conundrum Creek

Site Code S.USCOHP*3957

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 528 Site Class PCA
Site Alias Triangle Pass

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 390223N
State Colorado Longitude 1065302W

<u>Quad Code</u>	<u>Quad Name</u>
39106-A7	Hayden Peak
39106-A8	Maroon Bells
38106-H8	Gothic

County

Pitkin (CO)
Gunnison (CO)

<u>Watershed Code</u>	<u>Watershed Name</u>
14010004	Roaring Fork
14020001	East-Taylor

SITE DESCRIPTION

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

Site Description

Conundrum Creek's headwaters begin at approximately 11,500 feet below talus slopes and flow by Conundrum Hot Springs at about 11,200 feet. The creek flows through a series of beaver ponds and empties into Cattle Creek, which flows through west Aspen. A well-used trail follows the creek throughout the entire PCA. Approximately 3,000 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 P - Partial Mapped Date 04/04/1996
Designer Ellingson, A.R.

Boundary Justification

The planning boundary includes the headwaters of this creek as well as an upland buffer which should be sufficient to limit direct physical disturbance and local hydrological alteration. The boundary is extended over the watershed divide to contain the alpine habitat supporting some rare plants that were historically documented in the area. Hydrological processes originating outside of the planning boundary, including water quality, quantity, and timing, should be managed to maintain population viability.

Primary Area 2,972.24 Acres 1,202.83 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

The Conundrum Creek PCA includes the only breeding occurrence of the globally critically imperiled boreal toad (*Bufo boreas* - southern Rocky Mountains population) in the Roaring Fork watershed. There are

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numerous historical occurrences of rare plants in this PCA. These include the globally imperiled Colorado wild buckwheat (*Eriogonum coloradense*), the globally-vulnerable tundra draba (*Draba ventosa*) and Leadville milkvetch (*Astragalus molybdenus*), as well as the state-rare woolly fleabane (*Erigeron lanatus*) and dwarf hawks beard (*Crepis nana*). There are also historical occurrences of two rare mustards, *Draba spectabilis* var. *oxyloba* and *Draba lonchocarpa* var. *lonchocarpa*, in the general area of Conundrum Pass, which falls within the upper portion of the PCA. These occurrences are likely still present due to the relatively undisturbed alpine habitat in which these plants are found. Further inventory of the alpine habitat in this PCA is needed to update these records.

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

Hydrological processes originating outside of the original planning boundary, including water quality, quantity, and timing, must be managed to maintain population and community viability.

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>			
16688	<i>Askellia nana</i>	dwarf hawksbeard	G5	S2	No
20190	<i>Astragalus molybdenus</i>	Leadville milkvetch	G3	S2	No
17985	<i>Draba ventosa</i>	tundra draba	G3	S1	No
19370	<i>Eriogonum coloradense</i>	Colorado wild buckwheat	G2	S2	No
16688	<i>Askellia nana</i>	dwarf hawksbeard	G5	S2	No
20351	<i>Bufo boreas</i> pop. 1	Boreal Toad (Southern Rocky Mountain Population)	G4T1Q	S1	Yes
21274	<i>Draba crassa</i>	thick-leaf whitlow-grass	G3G4	S3	No
21481	<i>Erigeron lanatus</i>	woolly fleabane	G3G4	S1	No
16688	<i>Askellia nana</i>	dwarf hawksbeard	G5	S2	No

REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
-	No Data

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date	05/04/1999
Version Author	Spackman, S.C.

Disclaimer

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