

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Deep Creek at Clark Ridge

Site Code S.USCOHP*21707

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 903 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 394634N
State Colorado Longitude 1073459W

Quad Code Quad Name
39107-G5 Meadow Creek Lake

County
Garfield (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name
14010005 Colorado headwaters-Plateau

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	8,600.00	Feet	2,621.00	Meters
Maximum Elevation	9,600.00	Feet	2,926.00	Meters

Site Description

The creek forms a fairly deep canyon with aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) and Engelmann spruce (*Picea engelmannii*) dominating adjacent slopes. The creek bottom is dominated by mountain willow (*Salix monticola*), planeleaf willow (*S. planifolia*), and beaked sedge (*Carex utriculata*). Overall species diversity is high. The creek is very sinuous and there are numerous beaver ponds located along this stretch of the stream. The area is fairly pristine with very little indication of threats and relatively no non-native species present. Soils at this site are not mapped by the county soil survey. The U.S. Forest Service in Glenwood Springs may have soil maps for this area. Due to the presence of beaver ponds in the area, the wetland has a strong potential to retain excess sediments, support nutrient cycles, and provide a diversity of wetland habitats for insects, birds, and small and large mammals.

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 01/15/2001
Designer Rocchio, F.J.

Boundary Justification

The boundary encompasses the narrow riparian area, beaver ponds, surrounding slopes, and some upstream drainages to ensure continued surface flow, periodic flooding, and space for the creek's fluvial processes to maintain a dynamic distribution of riparian plant communities. These processes are necessary for the viability of the elements and maintenance of ecological functions. However, the entire upstream portion of the watershed was not included in the site boundaries. Complete consideration of hydrological resources would need to include these upstream areas.

Primary Area 1,755.37 Acres 710.38 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site supports an excellent (A-ranked) occurrence of the globally vulnerable (G3/S3) mountain

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willow/beaked sedge (*Salix monticola*/*Carex utriculata*) montane riparian willow carr. This association is only known from thirteen locations in Colorado, but an additional ten to twenty more occurrences are expected in the state. Mountain willow appears to be at the center of its distribution in Colorado, where it frequently forms large thickets with few other willow species present. Literature from Utah, Wyoming, Montana, Idaho, Nevada and Oregon indicate that mountain willow loses importance north and west of Colorado, as it mixes with other willow species.

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</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>
24882	<i>Salix monticola</i> / <i>Carex utriculata</i> Shrubland	Montane Riparian Willow Carr	G3	S3	Yes

REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
160919	Lyon, P. 2000. Colorado Natural Heritage Program Biological Assessment of Garfield County.
160810	Rocchio, J. 2000. Colorado Natural Heritage Program Wetland Inventory/Assessment of Garfield County.

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date 01/15/2001
Version Author Rocchio, F.J.

Disclaimer

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