

# Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Dexter Creek

Site Code S.USCOHP\*18352

## IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 38 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 380332N  
State Colorado Longitude 1073810W

### Quad Code Quad Name

38107-A6 Ouray  
38107-A5 Wetterhorn Peak

### County

Ouray (CO)

### Watershed Code Watershed Name

14020006 Uncompahange

## SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	9,000.00 Feet	2,743.00 Meters
Maximum Elevation	11,000.00 Feet	3,353.00 Meters

### Site Description

The Dexter Creek site is located on the eastern side of the Uncompahgre Basin, on the slopes of the San Juan Mountains. The site is in the Uncompahgre National Forest, and partly in the Big Blue Wilderness. Vegetation is a mosaic of forest communities that are typical of the Ouray area. The moist valleys have a canopy dominated by Douglas-fir mixed with white fir. Riparian species include narrowleaf cottonwood, Rocky Mountain willow, Drummond willow, and Rocky Mountain juniper. Upslope areas have a combination of Douglas-fir, aspen and Gambel oak, with occasional white pine. The understory in riparian sites consists of a luxurious cover of Rocky Mountain maple, red-osier dogwood and white peavine. Pictureleaf wintergreen, one-sided wintergreen, and mosses grow in deep shade. Aspen forests and clearings on the upper slopes have an understory of Thurber fescue with white peavine, meadowrue, snowberry, Oregon grape, wild geranium, and elk sedge. Clearings have Thurber fescue and Gambel oak. The very small population of Pacific monardella was found in a clearing along the lower part of the trail. There are a few weeds along the trail, including orchard grass, dandelion and yellow sweet clover, probably carried in by horses. Otherwise, there are few exotic species in the site. Spruce budworm moths and webs were observed on the new growth of Douglas-firs throughout the area. There are several abandoned mines in the site. Natural disturbances in the site include landslides and avalanches.

### Key Environmental Factors

Fire, landslides, flooding and insects.

### Climate Description

No Data

### Land Use History

No Data

### Cultural Features

No Data

## SITE DESIGN

Site Map Y - Yes Mapped Date 11/01/1998  
Designer Lyon, M.J.

### Boundary Justification

The boundary encompasses the forested area on the north side of the Dexter Creek drainage. This site is representative of a much larger area of forest in Ouray County. The site boundaries could probably be extended considerably with further investigation.

Primary Area 521.49 Acres 211.04 Hectares

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## SITE SIGNIFICANCE

**Biodiversity Significance Rank** B4: Moderate Biodiversity Significance

### Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site contains two good occurrences of plant communities which are apparently secure on a global scale.

**Other Values Rank** No Data

### Other Values Comments

Wilderness, recreation (hiking, horseback riding), wildlife habitat, and historic mines.

## 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 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>			
17776	<i>Monardella odoratissima</i>	mountain wild mint	G4G5	S2	No
24989	<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i> / <i>Cornus sericea</i> Woodland	Lower Montane Riparian Forests	G4	S2	Yes
24582	<i>Populus tremuloides</i> / <i>Festuca thurberi</i> Forest	Aspen Forests	G4	S4	Yes

## REFERENCES

Reference ID                      Full Citation

-                                      No Data

## ADDITIONAL TOPICS

### Additional Topics

No Data

## VERSION

**Version Date**            05/12/1999

**Version Author**        Lyon, M.J.

## Disclaimer

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