

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name East Bear Gulch

Site Code S.USCOHP*26392

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 2360 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 381838N
State Colorado Longitude 1051612W

Quad Code Quad Name
38105-C3 Curley Peak

County
Fremont (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name
11020002 Upper Arkansas
11020001 Arkansas Headwaters

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	7,350.00 Feet	2,240.28 Meters
Maximum Elevation	9,240.00 Feet	2,816.35 Meters

Site Description

East Bear Gulch is a narrow drainage below a local granitic peak (approximately 9,600 feet) in the northern Wet Mountains. An evergreen riparian woodland occupies the drainage; its tree canopy is dominated by Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), although there are scattered aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) trees throughout. Shrubs in the riparian corridor are a diverse mix of species though river birch (*Betula occidentalis*) forms somewhat dense copses along the reach. Understory herbs are lush forming a moist, green ground cover along moss-covered channel banks. Surface flow within the entire reach is intermittent, although groundwater is pushed up by narrow canyons in places forming small pools. The surrounding uplands are comprised of extensive, intact native ecological systems. South-facing slopes are dominated by gambel oak (*Quercus gambelii*) scrub with ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*), whereas north-facing slopes are dominated by Douglas-fir with ponderosa pine codominant closer to ridgetops. The peak has pockets of ponderosa pine and aspen interspersed in Parry's oatgrass (*Danthonia parryi*) grasslands. The grasslands support diverse forbs including Degener beardtongue (*Penstemon degeneri*).

Key Environmental Factors

Lower montane elevation; moderate gradient; intermittent flow.

Climate Description

No Data

Land Use History

No Data

Cultural Features

No Data

SITE DESIGN

Site Map Y - Yes Mapped Date 01/13/2006
Designer Neid, S.L.

Boundary Justification

The boundary is drawn along the East Gulch watershed boundary to the south and to ridgelines to the north for immediate watershed protection.

Primary Area 571.31 Acres 231.20 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

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Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site encompasses an excellent (A-ranked) occurrence of a globally vulnerable riparian natural community, Douglas-fir / river birch (*Pseudotsuga menziesii* / *Betula occidentalis*) woodland (G3?/S3).

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>
24962	<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i> / <i>Betula occidentalis</i> Woodland	Montane Riparian Forest	G3?	S3	Yes

REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
193618	Neid, S.L. 2006. Final Report: Survey of Critical Wetlands and Riparian Areas in Fremont County, Colorado. Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Fort Collins, CO.

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date 01/13/2006
Version Author Neid, S.L.

Disclaimer

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