

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name East Creek

Site Code S.USCOHP*15793

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 1144 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 391007N
State Colorado Longitude 1071222W

Quad Code Quad Name

39107-B2 Redstone

County

Pitkin (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name

14010004 Roaring Fork

SITE DESCRIPTION

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

Site Description

East Creek flows west from its headwaters at about 12,000 feet over an approximately four mile distance to its confluence with the Crystal River at about 7200 feet. The Creek flows through a landscape dominated by Gambel's oak (*Quercus gambelii*) shrublands, aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) and Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) woodlands, and red sandstone outcrops. Dogwood (*Cornus sericea*) is abundant in pockets in steeply sloping rocky areas. A state-rare riparian community, dominated by Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) and dogwood, is found in the lower elevations of the PCA. This riparian community supports several other shrub species including snowberry (*Symphoricarpos rotundifolius*), dogwood (*Cornus sericea*), Drummond's willow (*Salix drummondiana*), mountain ash (*Sorbus scopulina*), mountain maple (*Acer glabrum*), and alder (*Alnus incana*). At higher elevations (above 8500 feet) there are several large rock outcrops, and the vegetation is dominated by spruce-fir (*Picea engelmannii*-*Abies lasiocarpa*) forests with patches of aspen (*Populus tremuloides*). The riparian areas in the higher elevations of the PCA support a good example of a spruce-fir community with bluebells (*Mertensia ciliata*) in the understory. At about 10,000 feet large sloping meadows occur, possibly as a result of avalanches or deep snow cover. The headwaters of East Creek, in the southeastern portion of the PCA, are above treeline. The PCA is accessible only from a four-wheel drive road which provides some natural protection as it is somewhat less convenient to reach than areas that are immediately accessible by paved roads. This PCA is in good condition overall; however there are trails used for hiking, fishing, horseback riding, and hunting. The activities along these thorough-ways are creating erosion and weed problems. Kentucky bluegrass (*Poa pratensis*), Orchard grass (*Dactylis glomerata*), and dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*) were noted along the trail in low cover. The PCA ranges in elevation from about 7800 to about 12,200 feet to include the headwaters of East Creek. A total of 1620 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 Y - Yes Mapped Date 04/28/1999
Designer Spackman, S.C.

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Boundary Justification

This PCA includes the headwaters of East Creek to protect the hydrological setting. The surrounding high quality habitat is included to protect the occurrence from direct disturbances, such as trampling, and indirect disturbances, such as unnatural erosion. The PCA provides additional suitable habitat to allow for natural migration of the riparian community.

Primary Area 1,620.91 Acres 655.96 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B4: Moderate Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site contains a good (B-ranked) example of a riparian community, *Pseudotsuga menziesii* - *Cornus sericea*, that is considered to be rare in Colorado (G4/S2). As of 1999, this community has only been documented in eight locations in the state and this site includes the only representation of this community type in the Roaring Fork watershed. The site also supports a good (B-ranked) occurrence of a globally common (G5/S5) riparian community, *Abies lasiocarpa* - *Mertensia ciliata*.

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>
24480	<i>Abies lasiocarpa</i> / <i>Mertensia ciliata</i> Forest	Montane Riparian Forests	G5	S5	Yes
24989	<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i> / <i>Cornus sericea</i> Woodland	Lower Montane Riparian Forests	G4	S2	Yes

REFERENCES

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

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date 04/28/1999
Version Author Spackman, S.C.

Disclaimer

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