

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name East Fork Parachute Creek

Site Code S.USCOHP*5979

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 1896 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>
2470	S.USCOHP*27039	Roan

LOCATORS

Nation United States Latitude 393359N
State Colorado Longitude 1075812W

Quad Code Quad Name

39107-E8 Anvil Points
39108-E1 Forked Gulch

County

Garfield (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name

14010005 Colorado headwaters-Plateau
14010006 Parachute-Roan

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation 6,700.00 Feet 2,042.00 Meters
Maximum Elevation 9,000.00 Feet 2,743.00 Meters

Site Description

East Fork Parachute Creek originates near the eastern rim of the Roan Cliffs. It bisects the NOSR-1 property as it flows southwest/west before plunging 200 feet in spectacular waterfall fashion into a narrow box canyon that leads off DOE property to the northwest. The shale soils comprising the bed of this drainage contribute to steep slopes on either side of this mostly direct-flowing stream. The shale is highly erosive and steep walls with seeping water are home to Hanging garden sullivania. Along the stream bed, willow communities persist in some small patches, but most of the drainage has been heavily impacted by grazing over a long period of time. This has resulted in degraded *Carex* and willow communities with high proportions of exotic species. The stream is also home to a Colorado endemic species of cutthroat trout.

Key Environmental Factors

A key factor affecting this site is the oil-shale soils.

Climate Description

No Data

Land Use History

The Roan Plateau in general has a long history of 100 years or more of heavy use by livestock. Since the area is fairly arid in general, the major drainages on the property have been the most impacted by this livestock use.

Cultural Features

No Data

SITE DESIGN

Site Map Y - Yes Mapped Date 02/26/2002
Designer Handwerk, J.E. and R.J. Rondeau

Boundary Justification

Two primary ecological processes were considered when designing the site boundary: 1) surface water and 2) ground water. Both are critical to the fish and hanging gardens that this site captures. The native cutthroat trout rely on good quality and quantity of surface water. The site boundary captures much of the East Fork Parachute Creek watershed that is so important to maintaining a viable population of fish. The hanging gardens rely on both surface and ground water and therefore this boundary captures a large portion of both.

Primary Area 7,677.74 Acres 3,107.08 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B2: Very High Biodiversity Significance

Copyright © 2011. Colorado State University. Colorado Natural Heritage Program. All Rights Reserved.

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name East Fork Parachute Creek

Site Code S.USCOHP*5979

Biodiversity Significance Comments

Most significantly, this site contains excellent (A-ranked) and good (B-ranked) occurrences of plant communities (*Acer negundo* - *Populus angustifolia* / *Cornus sericea* and *Populus tremuloides* / *Acer glabrum* riparian forests) which are imperiled on a global scale (G2/S2) and an excellent (A-ranked) occurrence of the globally imperiled (G2/S2) Roan Cliffs blazing star (*Mentzelia rhizomata*). It also contains several excellent and good occurrences of plant species and plant communities which are globally vulnerable, including hanging garden sullivania (*Sullivantia hapemanii* var. *purpusii*), and a fair (C-ranked) occurrence of a globally vulnerable (G4T3/S3) fish subspecies, Colorado River cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarkii pleuriticus*).

Other Values Rank V2 - High values

Other Values Comments

The scenic falls aside, this drainage not only provides one of the most important sources of water for livestock, it provides an important source for wildlife as well.

LAND MANAGEMENT ISSUES

Land Use Comments

The current land use patterns allow for overuse of this site by livestock. Future stewards should restrict this use by whatever means available, and will have some restoration work to do. Other uses of this site that merit consideration include fishing; anglers should be encouraged to return cutthroat trout to the stream and keep only brook trout. There currently exists one information sign encouraging this practice, but no patrol and/or enforcement of this practice exists.

Natural Hazard Comments

Those visiting this site should pay careful attention to topographical maps, as there exist areas where entry to the creek is difficult at best, impossible at worst due to sharp cliffs that line the drainage. The JQS trail should not be travelled during a rainstorm, or very soon thereafter, since the clay substrate makes this exposed road extremely slippery and dangerous.

Exotics Comments

Exotic brook trout have been introduced to this stream system. Cattle, sheep, other ungulates, and people have introduced a number of exotic plant species to the small floodplain of this drainage.

Offsite

No Data

Information Needs

No Data

ASSOCIATED ELEMENTS OF BIODIVERSITY

<u>Element</u>	<u>State Scientific Name</u>	<u>State Common Name</u>	<u>Global Rank</u>	<u>State Rank</u>	<u>Driving Site Rank</u>
24883	<i>Populus tremuloides</i> / <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> Forest	Aspen Wetland Forests	G4	S3S4	No
22214	<i>Sullivantia hapemanii</i> var. <i>purpusii</i>	Hanging Garden sullivania	G3T3	S3	No
18994	<i>Argillochloa dasyclada</i>	Utah fescue	G3	S3	No
24861	<i>Populus tremuloides</i> / <i>Acer glabrum</i> Forest	Montane Riparian Forests	G2	S2	Yes
21796	<i>Oncorhynchus clarkii pleuriticus</i>	Colorado River Cutthroat Trout	G4T3	S3	No
24717	<i>Populus tremuloides</i> / Tall Forbs Forest	Montane Aspen Forest	G5	S5	No
24961	<i>Salix drummondiana</i> / Mesic Forbs Shrubland	Drummonds Willow/Mesic Forb	G4	S4	No
24382	<i>Leymus cinereus</i> Herbaceous Vegetation	Western Slope Grasslands	G2G3Q	S1S2	No
18994	<i>Argillochloa dasyclada</i>	Utah fescue	G3	S3	No
24860	<i>Populus angustifolia</i> / <i>Cornus sericea</i> Woodland	Cottonwood Riparian Forest	G4	S3	No
24479	<i>Acer negundo</i> - <i>Populus angustifolia</i> / <i>Cornus sericea</i> Forest	Narrowleaf Cottonwood Riparian Forests	G2	S2	Yes
24679	<i>Cardamine cordifolia</i> - <i>Mertensia ciliata</i> Herbaceous Vegetation	Alpine Wetlands	G4	S4	No
24867	<i>Picea pungens</i> / <i>Cornus sericea</i> Woodland	Montane Riparian Forest	G4	S2	No
19359	<i>Iliamna grandiflora</i>	large-flower globe-mallow	G3?Q	S1	No
24327	<i>Aegolius funereus</i>	Boreal Owl	G5	S2	No
24717	<i>Populus tremuloides</i> / Tall Forbs Forest	Montane Aspen Forest	G5	S5	No

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name	East Fork Parachute Creek	Site Code	S.USCOHP*5979		
24479	<i>Acer negundo</i> - <i>Populus angustifolia</i> / <i>Cornus sericea</i> Forest	Narrowleaf Cottonwood Riparian Forests	G2	S2	Yes
22214	<i>Sullivantia hapemanii</i> var. <i>purpusii</i>	Hanging Garden sullivantia	G3T3	S3	No
24809	<i>Salix monticola</i> / Mesic Forbs Shrubland	Montane Riparian Willow Carr	G4	S3	No
17361	<i>Mentzelia rhizomata</i>	Roan Cliffs blazing star	G2	S2	Yes
24905	<i>Abies lasiocarpa</i> / <i>Salix drummondiana</i> Forest	Montane Riparian Forest	G5	S4	No

REFERENCES

Reference ID	Full Citation
-	No Data

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics
No Data

VERSION

Version Date	02/26/2002
Version Author	Handwerk, J.E. and R.J. Rondeau

Disclaimer

These data are a product and property of Colorado State University, Colorado Natural Heritage Program (CNHP). These data are strictly "on loan" and should be considered "works in progress". Data maintained in the Colorado Natural Heritage Program database are an integral part of ongoing research at CSU and reflect the observations of many scientists, institutions and our current state of knowledge. These data are acquired from various sources, with varying levels of accuracy, and are continually being updated and revised. Many areas have never been surveyed and the absence of data in any particular geographic area does not necessarily mean that species or ecological communities of concern are not present. These data should not be regarded as a substitute for on-site surveys required for environmental assessments. Absence of evidence is NOT evidence of absence. Absence of any data does not mean that other resources of special concern do not occur, but rather CNHP files do not currently contain information to document this presence. CNHP is not responsible for whether other, non-CNHP data providers have secured landowner permission for data collected.

These data are provided for non-commercial purposes only. Under no circumstances are data to be distributed in any fashion to outside parties. To ensure accurate application of data, tabular and narrative components must be evaluated in conjunction with spatial components. Failure to do so constitutes a misuse of the data. The Colorado Natural Heritage Program shall have no liability or responsibility to the data users, or any other person or entity with respect to liability, loss, or damage caused or alleged to be caused directly or indirectly by the data, including but not limited to any interruption of service, loss of business, anticipatory profits or indirect, special, or consequential damages resulting from the use of operation of the data. Data users hereby agree to hold CNHP, Colorado State University, and the State of Colorado harmless from any claim, demand, cause of action, loss, damage or expense from or related to data users use of or reliance on the data, regardless of the cause or nature thereof, and even in the event that such cause is attributable to the negligence or misconduct of CNHP.

These data are provided on an as-is basis, as-available basis without warranties of any kind, expressed or implied, INCLUDING (BUT NOT LIMITED TO) WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY, FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE, AND NON-INFRINGEMENT. Although CNHP maintains high standards of data quality control, CNHP, Colorado State University, and the State of Colorado further expressly disclaim any warranty that the data are error-free or current as of the date supplied