

# Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name East Fork Park

Site Code S.USCOHP\*1641

## IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 1581 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 372429N  
State Colorado Longitude 1064710W

Quad Code Quad Name  
37106-D7 Wolf Creek Pass

County  
Mineral (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name  
14080101 Upper San Juan

## SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	7,720.00 Feet	2,353.00 Meters
Maximum Elevation	9,520.00 Feet	2,902.00 Meters

### Site Description

Population occurs on north-facing slopes of south side of the river gorge. The East Fork Park site includes adjacent upland forest of an upper section of the East Fork of the San Juan River. This section of the river opens up into a one-half mile wide valley below the Quartz Creek confluence and narrows again some five miles downstream. The river is low gradient, shallow, and braided, with a cobble bottom. The riparian vegetation is composed of a mosaic of three vegetation types, including narrowleaf cottonwood - blue spruce / thinleaf alder (*Populus angustifolia* - *Picea pungens* / *Alnus incana*) in the upper portion, with thinleaf alder - mixed willow shrublands (*Alnus incana* - mixed *Salix* species) and perched wetlands of beaked sedge (*Carex utriculata*) in the lower half. Beavers are found on the secondary channels and help to maintain the wetlands. Grassy-forb meadows, often weedy, dominate the terraces and lower slopes and grade slopes. North-facing slopes support a good stand of old growth Douglas-fir forest with a moist forb dominated understory. Small natural ponds and wetlands provide excellent habitat for deer, elk, and possibly frogs. The south facing slopes are dominated by aspen (*Populus tremuloides*), ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*), or Gambel's oak (*Quercus gambelii*). Cattle grazing has been the dominant use of this site, although this is currently changing. There are no ditches, dams, man-made ponds, or irrigated hay meadows at this site - an unusual event given the elevation and geomorphology of the river.

### 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 02/15/2002

Designer Lyon, M.J.

### Boundary Justification

The boundary encompasses the element occurrence and provides a small buffer to limit direct disturbance. This boundary is drawn to include the uplands that supports the elements of biodiversity found at the site. Digital elevation models, the 7.5 minute topographic map, and on-the-ground survey were referenced for delineating boundaries for this site.

Primary Area 1,132.10 Acres 458.15 Hectares

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## SITE SIGNIFICANCE

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

### Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site supports a good (B-ranked) occurrence of a state rare (G5/S1?) natural community, Douglas-fir / Creeping Oregon-grape forest (*Pseudotsuga menziesii* / *Mahonia repens*).

**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 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>			
24834	<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i> / <i>Mahonia repens</i> Forest	Douglas Fir/Creeping Oregon-grape	G5	S1?	Yes

## REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
166839	Lyon, P. 2001. Colorado Natural Heritage Program Field Surveys.
168260	Rondeau, R.J. 1998. Colorado Natural Heritage Program Field Survey of Mineral County.

## ADDITIONAL TOPICS

### Additional Topics

No Data

## VERSION

**Version Date** 05/07/2003

**Version Author** Bell, J.B.

## Disclaimer

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