

# Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name East River at Rustler Gulch

Site Code S.USCOHP\*23628

## IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 1620 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 385901N  
State Colorado Longitude 1070036W

### Quad Code Quad Name

38106-H8	Gothic
38107-H1	Oh-be-joyful
39107-A1	Snowmass Mountain

### County

Gunnison (CO)

### Watershed Code Watershed Name

14020001	East-Taylor
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## SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	9,550.00 Feet	2,911.00 Meters
Maximum Elevation	10,200.00 Feet	3,109.00 Meters

### Site Description

East River flows through a moderate size valley through this site cutting through sedimentary bedrock and unconsolidated glacial drift. Forest Road 317 skirts the west side of the river and the Gothic Picnic Grounds are nearby. Spruce-fir dominate upland slopes. Numerous beaver ponds are scattered about the area. Wolf's willow (*Salix wolfii*) and planeleaf willow (*S. planifolia*) with an understory of mostly bluejoint reedgrass (*Calamagrostis canadensis*) dominate much of the riparian area. In slightly drier areas, Wolf's willow and various forbs occur while Drummond willow (*Salix drummondiana*) and mountain willow (*S. monticola*) are found near the beaver ponds and river channel. Other shrubs such as bog birch (*Betula glandulosa*), Drummond willow (*Salix drummondiana*), Geyer willow (*S. geyeriana*), and shrubby cinquefoil (*Pentaphylloides floribunda*) along with herbaceous species such as false-hellebore (*Veratrum tenuipetalum*), heartleaf bittercress (*Cardamine cordifolia*), cow parsnip (*Heracleum sphondylium montanum*), mountain bluebells (*Mertensia ciliata*), large-leaved avens (*Geum macrophyllum*), King's crown (*Sedum integrifolia*), star gentian (*Swertia perennis*), monk's hood (*Aconitum columbianum*), elephantella (*Pedicularis groenlandica*), and beaked sedge (*Carex utriculata*) are present through much of the riparian area. No non-native species were observed and no known hydrological alterations occur upstream.

### 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 12/29/2002

Designer Rocchio, F.J.

### Boundary Justification

The boundaries incorporate an area that will allow natural hydrological processes such as seasonal flooding, sediment deposition, and new channel formation to maintain viable populations of the elements along the East River. The boundaries also provide a small buffer from the nearby road where surface runoff may contribute excess nutrients and sediment. It should be noted that the hydrological processes necessary to the

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elements are not fully contained by the site boundaries. Given that the elements are dependent on natural hydrological processes associated with the East River and its tributaries, upstream activities such as water diversions, impoundments, and improper livestock grazing are detrimental to the hydrology of the riparian area. This boundary indicates the minimum area that should be considered for any conservation management plan.

Primary Area 1,078.66 Acres 436.52 Hectares

## SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

### Biodiversity Significance Comments

High biodiversity significance. This site supports a good (B-ranked) example of the globally vulnerable (G3/S2S3) Wolf's willow/bluejoint reedgrass (*Salix wolfii*/*Calamagrostis canadensis*) shrubland. This association is documented from several states but is not well documented in Colorado, but is expected to be more common if properly inventoried.

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>State ID</u>	<u>State Scientific Name</u>	<u>State Common Name</u>	<u>Global Rank</u>	<u>State Rank</u>	<u>Driving Site Rank</u>
	40532	<i>Salix wolfii</i> / <i>Calamagrostis canadensis</i> Shrubland	Subalpine Riparian Willow Carr	G3	S2S3	Yes

## REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
173839	Rocchio J., G Doyle, and R. Rondeau. 2003. Final Report: Survey of Critical Wetlands and Riparian Areas in Gunnison County, Colorado. Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Fort Collins, CO.
173182	Rocchio, J. 2002. Colorado Natural Heritage Program Field Survey of Critical Wetlands in Gunnison County.

## ADDITIONAL TOPICS

### Additional Topics

No Data

## VERSION

Version Date 12/19/2002  
Version Author Rocchio, F.J.

## Disclaimer

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