

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Elliot Creek

Site Code S.USCOHP*3990

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 506 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 395016N
State Colorado Longitude 1062114W

<u>Quad Code</u>	<u>Quad Name</u>
39106-G3	Mount Powell
39106-G4	Piney Peak

County

Summit (CO)

<u>Watershed Code</u>	<u>Watershed Name</u>
14010002	Blue

SITE DESCRIPTION

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

Site Description

The Elliot Creek site stretches from alpine tundra on Elliot Ridge in the Gore Range, through subalpine spruce - fir (*Picea engelmannii* - *Abies lasiocarpa*) forest, down into the upper montane (8,500-11,600 feet). Three creeks-the North Fork, Elliot Creek, and an unnamed creek-flow eastward off of Elliot Ridge. These creeks converge into Elliot Creek. Hoagland Reservoir is located about midway along the mainstem of Elliot Creek. The site lies in a mountain landscape that was highly modified by Pleistocene glacial activity, which ended ten to fifteen thousand years ago. The evidence of the glacial activity is apparent in both the alpine lakes and wetlands (formed by melting blocks of ice) and in the lower elevation ridges (formed when the glaciers deposited rock debris along their edges). Spruce - fir forest dominates the subalpine portion of this site. Stands of lodgepole pine (*Pinus contorta*) occur commonly across this portion of the Gore Range. The upper subalpine and alpine areas support a particularly diverse mix of dry tundra plant communities and saturated wetlands and riparian areas. Elliot Creek originates in a wetland that supports a plant species that is rare in Colorado and at the very southern edge of its global distribution. This wetland consists of extensive sedge dominated peatlands and low willow carrs. Snowbanks that persist throughout most summers keep these wetlands saturated all year long. Where there are not persistent snowbanks above the wetlands, dry rocky ridges support alpine tundra. This site is about 2,000 acres in size.

Key Environmental Factors

No Data

Climate Description

No Data

Land Use History

No Data

Cultural Features

No Data

SITE DESIGN

Site Map P - Partial Mapped Date 04/08/1996
Designer Fleming, C.C.

Boundary Justification

The proposed conservation site boundary includes the headwaters of the North Fork of Elliot Creek, the mainstem of this creek, and a 1,000 foot buffer along the lower portion of the creek. This boundary should be sufficient to limit direct physical disturbance and hydrologic alteration of the headwater wetlands and the creek channel. The suggested boundary will also minimize indirect disturbances due to sedimentation from

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roads, grazing, logging, etc. Although the trout has been documented above and below Hoagland Reservoir, the most significant area for the trout is above.

Primary Area 2,024.84 Acres

819.43 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B4: Moderate Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site contains an excellent (A-ranked) occurrence of a state rare (G5/S2) mud sedge (*Carex limosa*) and a fair (C-ranked) occurrence of a globally rare (G4T3/S3) subspecies, the Colorado River cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarkii pleuriticus*). The Colorado River cutthroat trout is a U.S. Forest Service Sensitive and a State Special Concern species. The introduction of non-native trout species, dating back to 1872 in Colorado, is considered a primary cause for the decline in numbers and genetic purity.

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

Hydrological processes originating outside of the planning boundary, including water quality, quantity and timing, must be managed to maintain population and community viability.

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>
22458	<i>Carex limosa</i>	mud sedge	G5	S2	No
21796	<i>Oncorhynchus clarkii pleuriticus</i>	Colorado River Cutthroat Trout	G4T3	S3	Yes

REFERENCES

Reference ID **Full Citation**

- No Data

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date 04/08/1996

Version Author Fleming, C.C.

Disclaimer

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