

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Falls Gulch

Site Code S.USCOHP*25793

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 2267 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 382502N
State Colorado Longitude 1054204W

Quad Code Quad Name
38105-D6 Arkansas Mountain

County
Fremont (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name
11020001 Arkansas Headwaters

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	7,300.00 Feet	2,225.04 Meters
Maximum Elevation	7,980.00 Feet	2,432.30 Meters

Site Description

This site encompasses a spring-fed wetland occurring in a narrow hanging valley above a travertine cliff. The cliff is formed by a travertine plug within one of several drainages that dissect a local sandstone hogback surrounded by granitic bedrock in the western portion of the county. This plug has backed up drainage forming a wetland. A perennial stream is formed from several seepage areas that feed a network of rivulets that course through the fen-like sedge wetland perched behind the cliff. The stream plummets over the cliff as a 100-foot waterfall before joining Bernard Creek below. Xeric pinon - juniper (*Pinus edulis* - *Juniperus* spp.) woodland covers the surrounding hillsides in all directions. A small grove of balsam poplar (*Populus balsamifera*) occupies the mouth of the stream as it falls over the cliff face. Water birch (*Betula occidentalis*) cling to the cliff face and occupy streamsides below until the tributary meets Bernard Creek.

Key Environmental Factors

Spring-fed wetland

Climate Description

No Data

Land Use History

No Data

Cultural Features

No Data

SITE DESIGN

Site Map Y - Yes Mapped Date 01/02/2006
Designer Neid, S.L.

Boundary Justification

Boundary drawn along adjacent ridgelines for immediate watershed protection. Boundary includes approximately 500 m buffer uphill from spring.

Primary Area 100.79 Acres 40.79 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site is drawn for a good (B-ranked) occurrence of a globally vulnerable (G3/S2) riparian shrubland, water birch / mesic graminoids (*Betula occidentalis* / mesic graminoids) natural community. Additionally, there is an excellent (A-ranked) occurrence of an apparently globally secure, but state vulnerable (G4/S3) wetland natural community, analogue sedge (*Carex simulata*) herbaceous vegetation.

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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>
24637	<i>Betula occidentalis</i> / Mesic Graminoids Shrubland	Lower Montane Riparian Shrublands	G3	S2	Yes
16887	<i>Carex simulata</i> Herbaceous Vegetation	Wet Meadow	G4	S3	No

REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
193618	Neid, S.L. 2006. Final Report: Survey of Critical Wetlands and Riparian Areas in Fremont County, Colorado. Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Fort Collins, CO.

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date 01/02/2006

Version Author Neid, S.L.

Disclaimer

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