

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Fawn Creek North

Site Code S.USCOHP1*2548

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 1484 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 400452N
State Colorado Longitude 1073217W

Quad Code Quad Name

40107-A5	Fawn Creek
40107-A4	Lost Park
40107-B5	Sleepy Cat Peak

County

Rio Blanco (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name

14050002	Lower Yampa
14050005	Upper White

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	7,350.00	Feet	2,240.28	Meters
Maximum Elevation	10,000.00	Feet	3,048.00	Meters

Site Description

The Fawn Creek North site is located in the North Fork of the White River Valley. The area encompasses the East and West Forks of Fawn Creek and Moeller Creek. The northern portion is located on the south side of Sleepy Cat Peak. The southern extension consists of a wide floodplain with multiple terraces. The highest terraces are used for agriculture. The lower terraces and point bars are in good condition supporting a riparian mosaic of narrowleaf cottonwood (*Populus angustifolia*) and coyote willow (*Salix exigua*). Thinleaf alder (*Alnus incana*) and willows (*Salix monticola*, *S. drummondiana*) line the immediate stream bank. The active floodplain supports a diverse cottonwood forest with a thick shrub understory of hawthorn and several willow species. The herbaceous undergrowth is dominated by non-native hay-meadow grass species.

Key Environmental Factors

Geology is classified as sedimentary rocks of Permian and Pennsylvanian Age Weber Sandstone and Maroon Formation.

Climate Description

In the County, summers are warm or hot in most valleys but are much cooler in the mountains. Winters are cold in the mountains. Summer thunderstorms are prevalent; of the total precipitation, 55% usually falls between April and September. Average seasonal snowfall is 74.4 inches, average day time temperature is 45 degrees and average precipitation is 16.5 inches for Meeker between 1948 -2007 (Western Regional Climate Center 2008).

Land Use History

No Data

Cultural Features

No Data

SITE DESIGN

Site Map P - Partial Mapped Date 02/08/2008
Designer Culver, D.R.

Boundary Justification

This boundary includes Fawn Creek and its major tributaries, including 1,000 foot buffer on all sides of the streams. Downstream barrier to exotic salmonids is presumed to exist, but its location and condition are unknown. The lower boundary of the site should correspond with this barrier. This should be adequate to protect the elements from degradation of habitat including severe alterations of hydrology or riparian

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Fawn Creek North

Site Code S.USCOHP1*2548

vegetation. Off-site considerations will be important.

Primary Area 7,562.26 Acres 3,060.35 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

The site supports an excellent (A-ranked) occurrence of a globally vulnerable (G4T3/S3) fish subspecies, Colorado River cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarkii pleuriticus*). There are also good (B-ranked) occurrences of globally secure plant communities, Drummond's willow (*Salix drummondiana*) / mesic forb (G4/S4) riparian shrubland and quaking aspen with bracken fern (*Populus tremuloides* / *Pteridium aquilinum*) (G4/S3S4) forest.

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

Any activities within the watershed that have potential to significantly alter hydrological processes need to be evaluated for their impact on the elements present.

Information Needs

No Data

ASSOCIATED ELEMENTS OF BIODIVERSITY

<u>Element 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>
24883	<i>Populus tremuloides</i> / <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> Forest	Aspen Wetland Forests	G4	S3S4	No
24961	<i>Salix drummondiana</i> / Mesic Forbs Shrubland	Drummonds Willow/Mesic Forb	G4	S4	No
21796	<i>Oncorhynchus clarkii pleuriticus</i>	Colorado River Cutthroat Trout	G4T3	S3	Yes

REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
195026	Culver, D., J. Huggins and P. Lyon. 2008. Final Report: Significant Biological Resources in Rio Blanco County, CO. Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Fort Collins, CO.
195036	The Nature Conservancy. 1995. Personal Communication to CNHP by the Colorado Field Office (COFO) of the Nature Conservancy.
195034	WRCC. 2008. Western Regional Climate Center. Division of Atmospheric Sciences, Desert Research Institute. Reno, Nevada. < http://www.wrcc.dri.edu >.

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

Original site design by Ellingson, A.R. 1996-01-02.

VERSION

Version Date 02/08/2008
Version Author Culver, D.R.

Disclaimer

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Fawn Creek North

Site Code S.USCOHP1*2548

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