

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Fourmile Creek of San Juan River

Site Code S.USCOHP*8450

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 268 Site Class PCA
Site Alias Beaver Lake at Fourmile Creek

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 372637N
State Colorado Longitude 1070220W

Quad Code Quad Name
37107-D1 Pagosa Peak

County
Mineral (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name
14080101 Upper San Juan

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	8,690.00 Feet	2,649.00 Meters
Maximum Elevation	11,580.00 Feet	3,530.00 Meters

Site Description

Among rocks piled during trail construction. Eastern aspect midslope in partial shade. Much of Fourmile Creek within this site is a narrow canyon below a large snowmelt basin. The site includes several waterfalls and many sheer rock faces along the canyon. Bedrock is igneous rock and conglomerate. The streambed is very rocky and consists of exposed bedrock in many places. The steep canyon slopes support mesic forb stands comprised of bluebells-senecio (*Mertensia ciliata*-*Senecio triangularis*) and scattered fumewort (*Corydalis casenea*). Below the falls, the canyon opens to support willow stands. The upper elevations are a large basin with several large snowmelt-fed wet meadows in relatively flat valleys along with two large lakes in glacial tarns. Two small trails traverse the basin and are regularly used by hikers and horseback riders. The meadows support spikerush (*Eleocharis*) beds and diverse tufted hairgrass (*Deschampsia*) stands. This is a wide valley with a sinuous stream which drains the nearby mountains. Talus slopes dominate the west side of the valley while spruce-fir forest dominate the east side. The lower elevation is a white fir (*Abies concolor*), Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) and snowberry (*Symphoricarpes rotundifolius*). The ground cover is lush with Oregon-grape (*Mahonia repens*) and meadowrue (*Thalictrum*). Volcanic tuff is the primary parent material. The pictureleaf wintergreen is found within this forest.

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 04/11/1997
Designer Fayette, K.K.

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the occurrence and a small buffer of suitable habitat to allow for additional individuals to become established over time. The buffer should also protect the occurrence from trampling or other surface disturbances. The boundary includes the headwater basin and the riparian zone of Fourmile Creek with a small buffer zone to help protect the wetland occurrences from trampling or other surface disturbance. The lower montane slopes are included for complete protection of pictureleaf wintergreen.

Primary Area 742.41 Acres 300.44 Hectares

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SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B4: Moderate Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site supports excellent examples of common wetland plant communities, *Eleocharis quinqueflora* (G4/S3S4) and *Cardamine cordifolia* - *Mertensia ciliata* (G4/S4).

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>
23155	<i>Eleocharis quinqueflora</i> Herbaceous Vegetation	Alpine Wetlands	G4	S3S4	Yes
24679	<i>Cardamine cordifolia</i> - <i>Mertensia ciliata</i> Herbaceous Vegetation	Alpine Wetlands	G4	S4	Yes

REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
-	No Data

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date	04/11/1997
Version Author	Fayette, K.K.

Disclaimer

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