

# Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Garner Creek

Site Code S.USCOHP\*177

## IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 1291 Site Class PCA  
Site Alias Garner Creek Spring

### Network of Conservation Areas (NCA)

<u>NCA Site ID</u>	<u>NCA Site Code</u>	<u>NCA Site Name</u>
1956	S.USCOHP*5778	Sangre de Cristo

## LOCATORS

Nation United States Latitude 381060N  
State Colorado Longitude 1054724W

Quad Code Quad Name  
38105-B7 Valley View Hot Springs

County  
Saguache (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name  
13010003 San Luis

## SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	8,700.00 Feet	2,652.00 Meters
Maximum Elevation	9,950.00 Feet	3,033.00 Meters

### Site Description

The Garner Canyon site is drawn to delineate a complex of valley bottom and toeslope vegetation communities in the lower reaches of the canyon. The canyon is wider than most of the other gorges draining the western flank of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, and the valley bottom is less steep. The toeslope on the south side of Garner Creek supports a dense stand of Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) with an understory of Rocky Mountain maple (*Acer glabrum*), snowberry (*Symphoricarpos rotundifolius*), wild rose (*Rosa woodsii*), buffaloberry (*Shepherdia canadensis*), and a lush understory of forbs, sedges, and grasses. At the base of the canyon, where a complex of springs augment the riparian wetlands along Garner Creek, there is a small but lush stand of aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) with western birch (*Betula occidentalis*) in the understory. The site covers over 300 acres and extends from 8,700 to 9,950 feet (2,654-3,035 meters) in elevation.

### 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 02/16/1998  
Designer Sarr, D.A.

### Boundary Justification

The site boundaries are drawn to include all the occurrences and valley toeslopes within 1/8 mile of the stream which contribute surface runoff to the stream channel. In addition, the boundary is drawn to 1) protect the occurrences from direct impacts such as trampling or other surface disturbances; and 2) provide suitable habitat where additional individuals can become established over time. The boundary was developed following a field visit by a CNHP wetland ecologist and corroborated with remotely sensed data.

Primary Area 312.77 Acres 126.57 Hectares

## SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B4: Moderate Biodiversity Significance

### Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site contains a good (B-ranked) occurrence of a state rare natural community, *Pseudotsuga menziesii* /

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*Acer glabrum* montane 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

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>
24528	<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i> / <i>Acer glabrum</i> Forest	Lower Montane Forests	G4?	S1	Yes

### REFERENCES

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

### ADDITIONAL TOPICS

## Additional Topics

No Data

### VERSION

Version Date 02/16/1998

Version Author Sarr, D.A.

### Disclaimer

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