

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Grizzly Creek Canyon

Site Code S.USCOHP*4298

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 1242 Site Class PCA
 Site Alias Grizzly 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 393921N
 State Colorado Longitude 1071438W

Quad Code Quad Name

39107-E2	Shoshone
39107-E3	Glenwood Springs
39107-F3	Carbonate
39107-F2	Broken Rib Creek

County

Garfield (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name

14010001	Colorado headwaters
14010005	Colorado headwaters-Plateau

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	6,100.00	Feet	1,859.00	Meters
Maximum Elevation	10,800.00	Feet	3,292.00	Meters

Site Description

This is a very large site encompassing the entire Grizzly Creek watershed. Near the headwaters, the area consists of an expansive, open, flat area with numerous subalpine lakes connected via a series of large wetlands and small streams. There are numerous large boulders scattered throughout the area and small limestone outcropping and cliffs. The non-forested adjacent hillsides are covered with shortfruit willow (*Salix brachycarpa*) while conifers dominate higher slopes. The lakes are surrounded by concentric rings of water and beaked sedge (*Carex aquatilis* and *C. utriculata*, respectively) meadows transitioning into low-stature willow carrs mainly composed of sedges and planeleaf willow (*Salix planifolia*). There appears to be an ephemeral hydrological connection between Monument and Duck Lake, although there may be persistent groundwater flow between the two. There is a permanent stream that connects Duck Lake to Grizzly Lake. This stream is dominated by mountain willow (*S. monticola*) and a variety of herbaceous species. Grizzly Creek drains out of Grizzly Lake and heads east where it has cut a steep canyon down to its confluence with the Colorado River. Mountain willow, Drummond's willow (*S. drummondiana*), marsh bittercress (*Cardamine cordifolia*), beaked sedge, and field horsetail (*Equisetum arvense*) are common along this stretch of Grizzly Creek. Near Grizzly Creek Springs there are a few mesic meadows dominated by Idaho fescue (*Festuca idahoensis*) and Thurber fescue (*Festuca thurberi*). These meadows are interrupted by islands of spruce-fir forest while aspens (*Populus tremuloides*) are common adjacent to the meadows. Further downstream, narrowleaf cottonwood (*Populus angustifolia*) becomes common along the creek while the upland slopes are dominated by Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), Oregon boxleaf (*Paxistima myrsinites*), Gambel's oak (*Quercus gambelii*), snowberry (*Symphoricarpos oreophilus*), and sticky-laurel (*Ceanothus velutinus*). On west and south facing slopes, Douglas-fir is often dominant with mountain boxwood while Gambel's oak and Oregon boxleaf are common on east and south facing slopes. Soils at this site are not mapped by the county soil survey. The U.S. Forest Service in Glenwood Springs may have soil maps for this area. This site contains a long and extensive riparian area with a high cover of woody vegetation, thus the capacity of this wetland to perform flood attenuation and bank stabilization may be good. The diversity of habitats, including scrub-shrub, forested, and emergent wetlands, provide excellent habitat for avian species and large and small mammals. Excellent vegetation structure along the creek provides shade and woody debris and thus excellent fish habitat.

Key Environmental Factors

No Data

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Grizzly Creek Canyon

Site Code S.USCOHP*4298

Climate Description

No Data

Land Use History

No Data

Cultural Features

No Data

SITE DESIGN

Site Map P - Partial

Mapped Date 01/25/2001

Designer Rocchio, F.J.

Boundary Justification

Boundary includes occurrences and adjacent habitat. Site boundaries need verification, habitat may extend further than current boundary. Buffer extends further upslope from the edge of the occurrences to approximately 100 meters.

Primary Area 16,356.60 Acres

6,619.31 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

The site supports an unranked occurrence of the globally imperiled to vulnerable (G2G3) Douglas-fir/Oregon boxleaf lower montane forest. This association has a naturally restricted distribution being found on very steep, well-drained terrain of mostly northern exposures. There are unranked occurrences of the Idaho-Thurber fescue montane grassland, Drummond's willow/beaked sedge montane willow carr, and the Gambel's oak/Oregon boxleaf mixed mountain shrubland. An unranked occurrence of the globally vulnerable Whitlow-grass is also found at this site. The globally apparently secure montane riparian willow carr (*Salix monticola*/mesic forb) also occurs here. This association is only known from Colorado where over thirty occurrences have been documented.

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>
24942	<i>Salix drummondiana</i> / <i>Carex utriculata</i> Shrubland	Montane Willow Carr	G4	S3	No
24809	<i>Salix monticola</i> / Mesic Forbs Shrubland	Montane Riparian Willow Carr	G4	S3	Yes
24778	<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i> / <i>Paxistima myrsinites</i> Forest	Lower Montane Forests	G2G3	S2S3	No
24923	<i>Quercus gambelii</i> / <i>Paxistima myrsinites</i> Shrubland	Mixed Mountain Shrublands	GU	SU	No
24513	<i>Festuca idahoensis</i> - <i>Festuca thurberi</i> Herbaceous Vegetation	Montane Grasslands	G3G4	S3S4	No
24809	<i>Salix monticola</i> / Mesic Forbs Shrubland	Montane Riparian Willow Carr	G4	S3	No

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Grizzly Creek Canyon

Site Code S.USCOHP*4298

REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
160919	Lyon, P. 2000. Colorado Natural Heritage Program Biological Assessment of Garfield County.
160810	Rocchio, J. 2000. Colorado Natural Heritage Program Wetland Inventory/Assessment of Garfield County.

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date 06/30/2003

Version Author Bell, J.B.

Disclaimer

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