

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Headwaters of Patterson Creek

Site Code S.USCOHP*21712

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 308 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 394557N
State Colorado Longitude 1072302W

Quad Code Quad Name
39107-G4 Blair Mountain

County
Garfield (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name
14050005 Upper White

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	10,700.00 Feet	3,261.00 Meters
Maximum Elevation	10,800.00 Feet	3,292.00 Meters

Site Description

The site encompasses a narrow subalpine valley bordered by two low ridges. The riparian area consists of a mosaic of willows (*Salix wolfii* and *S. planifolia*) and sedge (*Carex aquatilis*, *C. utriculata*, and *C. microptera*) meadows. Other species found in this mosaic include tufted hairgrass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*), rosecrown (*Clementsia rhodantha*), marsh marigold (*Caltha leptosepala*), marsh bittercress (*Cardamine cordifolia*), and hemlock parsley (*Conioselinum scopulorum*). There are numerous springs, which, along with drainage from the many small lakes in the area, support hydrological flow in this unnamed side-drainage of Patterson Creek. The creek flows due north for a short distance, then turns west down a steep gulch before its confluence with Patterson Creek. 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 mosaic of willows and sedge meadows likely provides much in the way of flood attenuation and sediment/shoreline stabilization. Groundwater discharge is occurring via the numerous springs in the area. This wetland also likely provides excellent habitat for small and large mammals, avian species, and insects. Given the intact nature of the area, nutrient cycles are assumed to be intact which also provides excellent production export.

Key Environmental Factors

No Data

Climate Description

No Data

Land Use History

No Data

Cultural Features

No Data

SITE DESIGN

Site Map Y - Yes Mapped Date 04/15/2001
Designer Rocchio, F.J.

Boundary Justification

The boundary encompasses upstream hydrological sources and provides space for dynamic changes in the distribution of plant communities along the creek. A series of springs, which support a fairly large wetland located northeast of the elements of concern, were also included in the site boundaries due to the potential for this area to provide nearby seed sources and the probability that this area harbors similar elements.

Primary Area 314.12 Acres 127.12 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

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Biodiversity Significance Comments

The site supports an excellent (A-ranked) occurrence of the globally vulnerable (G3/S3) wolf willow/mesic forb (*Salix wolfii*/mesic forb) subalpine riparian willow carr. This community has a widespread distribution but does not appear to be abundant when it occurs. The site also supports an excellent (A-ranked) occurrence of the common (G4/S4) water sedge/beaked sedge (*Carex aquatilis*/*C. utriculata*) montane wet meadow.

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>
24572	<i>Salix wolfii</i> / Mesic Forbs Shrubland	Subalpine Riparian Willow Carr	G3	S3	Yes
24955	<i>Carex aquatilis</i> - <i>Carex utriculata</i> Herbaceous Vegetation	Montane Wet Meadows	G4	S4	No

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 04/15/2001
Version Author Rocchio, F.J.

Disclaimer

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