

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Hunter Creek

Site Code S.USCOHP*3954

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 1047 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 391229N
State Colorado Longitude 1064644W

Quad Code Quad Name

39106-B7 Aspen

County

Pitkin (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name

14010004 Roaring Fork

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	8,200.00 Feet	2,499.36 Meters
Maximum Elevation	9,000.00 Feet	2,743.20 Meters

Site Description

Hunter Creek drains into the Roaring Fork River near the town of Aspen. There is a diverse representation of community types in the Hunter Creek drainage in a small elevation span between 8,200 - 9,000 feet. The site occupies the spruce - fir forest interfaced with willow carr / beaver ponds. The communities range from upland slopes with red sandstone-derived soil dominated by serviceberry (*Amelanchier alnifolia*) and Gambel's oak (*Quercus gambelii*) at the lower elevations, to wet aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) forests interspersed with meadows at the higher elevations. Lodgepole pine (*Pinus contorta*) and Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) occupy the north-facing uplands. The lower area of the riparian zone is dominated by Douglas-fir and narrowleaf cottonwood (*Populus angustifolia*) with a diverse shrub layer of currant (*Ribes*), raspberry (*Rubus*), maple (*Acer*), honeysuckle (*Lonicera involucrata*), cherry (*Prunus*), serviceberry (*Amelanchier*), and dogwood (*Cornus*), and a sparsely vegetated herbaceous layer. Above Lenado Gulch, Hunter Creek meanders through willow carrs, dominated by Drummond's willow (*Salix drummondiana*) and mesic meadows. Abandoned oxbows and beaver dams form ponds next to the river. There is deep, rich soil in an old growth forest with lots of decaying logs and detritus. Other associated species include *Streptopus amplexifolius*, *Heracleum spondylium subsp. montanum*, *Pyrola asarifolia*, *Geum macrophyllum*, *Galium septentrionalis*, *Thalictrum fendleri*, *Equisetum arvense*, *Micranthes odontoloma*, *Alnus incana*, and *Urtica gracilis*.

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 01/23/2007
Designer Lyon, M.J.

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the occurrences and adjacent habitat at the edge of the spruce - fir forest to protect the occurrences from direct disturbances. Additionally, the hydrologic regime of the area should be protected in order to maintain the quality of these riparian communities.

Primary Area 603.98 Acres 244.42 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

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Biodiversity Significance Rank B4: Moderate Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

The site supports a good (B-ranked) occurrence of a state rare (G4/S3) montane willow carr plant community (*Salix drummondiana* / *Carex utriculata*) and an excellent (A-ranked) occurrence of a state rare (G5/S1) plant, mountain bladder fern (*Cystopteris montana*). The boreal toad (*Bufo boreas boreas*) and the northern leopard frog (*Rana pipiens*) were documented over 10 years ago. Although these species have not been reported since, it is possible that further research would document their persistence.

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

Orchard grass (*Dactylis glomerata*), Kentucky bluegrass (*Poa pratensis*), smooth brome (*Bromus inermis*), dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*), clover (*Trifolium pratense*), and timothy grass (*Phleum pratense*) have been documented.

Offsite

Hydrological processes originating outside of the planning boundary, including water quality, quantity, and timing, must be managed to maintain population and community viability.

Information Needs

The boreal toad (*Bufo boreas boreas*) was historically reported in this area.

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	Yes
22486	<i>Cystopteris montana</i>	mountain bladder fern	G5	S1	Yes

REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
194492	Lyon, M. 2006. Colorado Natural Heritage Program Field Surveys.

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

Original site design by Ellingson, A.R. 1996-04-04.

VERSION

Version Date	01/23/2007
Version Author	Lyon, M.J.

Disclaimer

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