

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Independence Creek

Site Code S.USCOHP*699

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 1528 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 405511N
State Colorado Longitude 1065852W

<u>Quad Code</u>	<u>Quad Name</u>
40106-H8	Elkhorn Mountain
40107-H1	Shield Mountain

County
Routt (CO)

<u>Watershed Code</u>	<u>Watershed Name</u>
14050003	Little Snake

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	7,720.00 Feet	2,353.00 Meters
Maximum Elevation	8,043.00 Feet	2,452.00 Meters

Site Description

This site is located in a moderately broad valley which supports many small ponds and large willow carrs. The site is an 8 km (5 mi) riparian habitat that includes the following creeks: Summit, Independence, Smith, Box, King Solomon, Dudley, and Tennessee. These creeks eventually feed into the Middle Fork of the Little Snake River. County Road 129 bisects the site. This site ranges in elevation from 2,316 to 2,413 m (7,720 to 8,043 ft). There are narrow canyons that define the northern and southern boundaries. Homes and ranches are located within the site, but no subdivisions. Light to moderate grazing activities and light agriculture are evident. The extensive willow carrs extend up into the narrow reaches of small canyons. There is ample evidence of extensive beaver activity.

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 01/25/1995
Designer Ellingson, A.R.

Boundary Justification

Encompasses all occurrences as well as continuous non-forested habitat. Should be sufficient to prevent direct disturbance to occurrences or degradation/destruction of breeding and adjacent foraging habitat.

Primary Area 2,541.29 Acres 1,028.43 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site contains an excellent (A-ranked) and good occurrence of a globally vulnerable (G3/S3) riparian plant community, *Salix boothii* - mesic graminoid. It supports one of the best examples of a Willow carr on private lands observed and provides excellent breeding habitat for Greater Sandhill Cranes. There are areas where the understory consists of sedges and native grasses.

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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

Upstream watershed influences must be considered for effective element protection. These include, but are not limited to, hydroperiod, water quality, and water quantity.

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>
20351	<i>Bufo boreas</i> pop. 1	Boreal Toad (Southern Rocky Mountain Population)	G4T1Q	S1	No
24614	<i>Salix boothii</i> / Mesic Graminoids Shrubland	Riparian Willow Carr	G3?	S3	Yes
24614	<i>Salix boothii</i> / Mesic Graminoids Shrubland	Riparian Willow Carr	G3?	S3	Yes
24327	<i>Aegolius funereus</i>	Boreal Owl	G5	S2	No
23668	<i>Grus canadensis tabida</i>	Greater Sandhill Crane	G5T4	S2B,S4N	No

REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
168083	Culver, D.R. and J. Sanderson. 1996. Final Report: A Natural Heritage Assessment of Wetlands and Riparian Areas in Routt County, Colorado. Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Fort Collins, CO.

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date 12/13/2000

Version Author Bell, J.B.

Disclaimer

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