Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Keyser Creek **Site Code** S.USCOHP*25913

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 2298 **Site Class** PCA

Site Alias None

Network of Conservation Areas (NCA)

NCA Site ID	NCA Site Code	NCA Site Name
-		No Data

LOCATORS

Nation United States **Latitude** 395413N

State Colorado **Longitude** 1060332W

Quad Code	Quad Name
39105-H8	Bottle Pass
39106-H1	Sylvan Reservoir

County

Grand (CO)

Watershed Code	Watershed Name
14010001	Colorado headwaters

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	8,440.00	**Feet**	2,572.51	**Meters**
Maximum Elevation	9,400.00	**Feet**	2,865.12	**Meters**

Site Description

Keyser Creek is a second order tributary of the Williams Fork River. Drainage supports a type A stream along the majority of the site, being narrow and moderately sloped. General geology consists of metamorphic rocks of the Precambrian Age. Soils are mineral throughout with pockets of organic soils in upper meadow and alluvium along the main drainage. Soils are inundated to seasonally saturated along the drainage and upper meadow. Open meadow above the confluence with Simpson Creek is dominated by a short shrub community of Wolf's willow (*Salix wolfii*). The short shrub layer forms a mosaic with mesic graminoids. The graminoid layer is dominated by water sedge (*Carex aquatilis*) with consistent cover of mesic forb species. Keyser Creek supports a community of blue spruce (*Picea pungens*), Engelmann spruce (*Picea engelmannii*), and thinleaf alder (*Alnus incana*). Both subalpine fir (*Abies lasiocarpa*) and lodgepole pine (*Pinus contorta*) are common along the drainage. Surrounding uplands are dominated by xeric lodgepole pine forests. Surrounding uplands show very little sign of anthropogenic disturbance. Approximately 50% of lodgepole in surrounding uplands have been affected by the current beetle infestation which may impact wetlands in the next decade. Hydrology appears to be intact and adjacent road does not seem to impact hydrology.

Key Environmental Factors

Key environmental factors influencing the biota of the site include slope, perennial hydrology, spring flooding, elevation, and aspect.

Climate Description

Climate likely follows patterns typical of this region of Colorado, being generally xeric throughout the year, with wet spring seasons and late summer "monsoons".

Land Use History

No Data

Cultural Features

No Data

SITE DESIGN

Site Map Y - Yes **Mapped Date** 01/14/2006

Designer Jones, J.R.

Boundary Justification

Boundaries include approximately 5 miles of Keyser Creek near its confluence with the Williams Fork River. Boundaries include buffered upland areas and encompass those ecological processes necessary to maintain site hydrology and biota including seasonal flooding, and sediment deposition. However, boundaries do not include all ecological processes influencing the site and activities upstream and along adjacent slopes such

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as improper grazing, water diversion, and development may impact site hydrology and biota.

Primary Area 795.69 **Acres** 322.00 **Hectares**

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site is drawn for a good (B-ranked) occurrence of the globally vulnerable (G3/S3) community blue spruce (*Picea pungens*) / thinleaf alder (*Alnus incana*) and a good (B-ranked) occurrence of the globally apparently secure (G4/S3) community, Wolf's willow (*Salix wolfii*) / water sedge (*Carex aquatilis*).

Other Values Rank V3 - Moderate values

Other Values Comments

The site provides moderate other values including aesthetics and open space for recreational uses such as hunting, fishing, camping, hiking, and biking. The drainage is also an important habitat for wildlife, being an accessible, perennial water source.

LAND MANAGMENT ISSUES

Land Use Comments

Predominant land uses include recreational uses such as hunting, fishing, camping, hiking, and biking. As well, surrounding forests may be used as a source for natural resource extraction by the USFS.

Natural Hazard Comments

Spring flooding may cause hazardous conditions along main drainage and adjacent roadways.

Exotics Comments

No exotic species were observed within the communities, but may be present along adjacent roadway.

Offsite

Off-site considerations include beetle infestation of lodgepole pine in surrounding forests, logging, roads, and recreational uses.

Information Needs

No Data

ASSOCIATED ELEMENTS OF BIODIVERSITY

Element State ID	State Scientific Name	State Common Name	Global Rank	State Rank	Driving Site Rank
24518	*Picea pungens / Alnus incana* Woodland	Montane Riparian Forests	G3	S3	Yes
24666	*Salix wolfii / Carex aquatilis* Shrubland	Subalpine Riparian Willow Carr	G4	S3	No

REFERENCES

Reference ID	Full Citation
160903	Carsey, K., D. Cooper, K. Decker, D. Culver, and G. Kittel. 2003. Statewide wetlands classification and characterization: Wetland plant associations of Colorado. Prepared for Colorado Department of Natural Resources, Denver, CO by Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Fort Collins, CO.
193632	Culver, D.R. and Jones, J.R. 2006. Final Report: Survey of Critical Biological Resources in Grand County. Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Fort Collins, CO.
160140	Dorn, R. D. 1997. Rocky Mountain Region Willow Identification Field Guide. Renewable Resources R2-RR-97-01. Denver, CO: USDA, Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Region. 107p.
167224	Hurd, E.G., N.L. Shaw, J. Mastroguiseppe, L.C. Smithman, and S. Goodrich. 1998. Field Guide to Intermountain Sedges. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rocky Mountain Research Station, Ogden, UT.
192747	Tweto, O. 1979. Geologic Map of Colorado, 1:500,000. United States Geological Survey, Department of Interior, and Geologic Survey of Colorado, Denver, CO.
193553	USDA, NRCS. 2005. The PLANTS Database, Version 3.5 (http://plants.usda.gov). Data compiled from various sources by Mark W. Skinner. National Plant Data Center <http://npdc.usda.gov/>, Baton Rouge, LA 70874-4490 USA. Accessed 2005.
172684	Weber, W.A. and R.C. Wittmann. 2001. Colorado Flora: Western Slope, Third Edition. University Press of Colorado, Niwot, CO.

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ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date 01/14/2006

Version Author Jones, J.R.

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