

# Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Lime Creek

Site Code S.USCOHP\*1629

## IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 1241 Site Class PCA  
Site Alias Lime Creek at Twilight Peak

## 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 374014N  
State Colorado Longitude 1074504W

## Quad Code Quad Name

37107-F6 Snowdon Peak  
37107-F7 Engineer Mountain

## County

San Juan (CO)

## Watershed Code Watershed Name

14080104 Animas

## SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	9,100.00 Feet	2,774.00 Meters
Maximum Elevation	9,600.00 Feet	2,926.00 Meters

## Site Description

The Lime Creek site encompasses a three mile stretch of Lime Creek in the area of Lime Creek Campground, which contains high quality riparian communities. Lime Creek is a major drainage of San Juan County, originating in the high mountains of San Juan County, near Twin Sisters (West Lime Creek) and Molas Pass (East Lime Creek), and flowing south to its confluence with Cascade Creek at Purgatory Flats. At the upstream end of this site, beginning about 1.3 miles north of the campground, narrowleaf cottonwoods and Engelmann spruce occupy the flood plain, while Rocky Mountain willow and Drummond's willow line the river bank. The forested area supports a lush understory of shrubs and forbs, with a deep mulch of litter.

Understory species include *Maianthemum stellatum*, *Delphinium barbeyi*, *Aconitum columbianum*, *Dugaldia hoopsii*, *Alnus incana*, *Heracleum lanatum*, *Epilobium angustifolium*, *Chamerion subdentatum*, *Senecio atrata*, *Agrostis scabra*, *Deschampsia cespitosa*, *Cirsium parryi*, *Valeriana edulis*, *Fragaria virginiana*, *F. vesca*, *Geranium richardsonii*, *Pedicularis procera*, *Actaea rubra*, *Galium triflorum*, *Osmorhiza depauperata*, *Solidago simplex*, *Hedysarum occidentale*, *Rubacera parviflorum*, *Prunus virginiana*, and *Rubus idaeus*. The only weedy species seen were small amounts of Kentucky bluegrass and common dandelion. This community extends downstream for about two miles, to about 0.7 miles south of the campground. In areas where the flood plain widens, large willow carrs of Rocky Mountain willow and Drummond willow are interspersed with the forest.

## 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 12/13/2002  
Designer Lyon, M.J.

## Boundary Justification

The boundary is drawn to include two adjacent montane riparian forest communities. It extends upslope a small distance to include uplands that are critical to water supply and quality.

Primary Area	326.55 Acres	132.15 Hectares
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## SITE SIGNIFICANCE

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Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

## Biodiversity Significance Comments

The site supports a good (B-ranked) occurrence of a globally vulnerable (G3/S3) Rocky Mountain willow community (*Salix monticola*/Mesic forb) and an excellent (A-ranked) occurrence of a globally vulnerable (G3/S3) montane riparian forest community (*Populus angustifolia*/mixed *Salix* sp.). It also supports an excellent (A-ranked) occurrence of a state rare (G4/S3) montane riparian forest community (*Abies lasiocarpa*-*Picea engelmannii*-*Populus angustifolia*/*Lonicera involucrata*).

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

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

## Information Needs

No Data

## ASSOCIATED ELEMENTS OF BIODIVERSITY

<u>Element</u>			<u>Global Rank</u>	<u>State Rank</u>	<u>Driving Site Rank</u>
24832	<i>Abies lasiocarpa</i> - <i>Picea engelmannii</i> - <i>Populus angustifolia</i> / <i>Lonicera involucrata</i> Forest	Montane Riparian Forest	G4	S3	No
24809	<i>Salix monticola</i> / Mesic Forbs Shrubland	Montane Riparian Willow Carr	G4	S3	Yes
24808	<i>Populus angustifolia</i> / <i>Salix (monticola, drummondiana, lucida)</i> Woodland	Narrowleaf Cottonwood/Mixed Willows Montane Riparian Forest	G3	S3	Yes

## REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
162794	Baker, W. L. 1985. Field Survey to the San Juan Mountains of July 24-August 8, 1985.
163571	Lyon, P. and D. Culver. 2002. Colorado Natural Heritage Program Field Surveys.

## ADDITIONAL TOPICS

## Additional Topics

No Data

## VERSION

Version Date 12/13/2002

Version Author Lyon, M.J.

## Disclaimer

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