

# Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Meadow Creek at Deep Creek Point

Site Code S.USCOHP\*21714

## IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 324 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 394558N  
State Colorado Longitude 1073336W

Quad Code Quad Name  
39107-G5 Meadow Creek Lake

County  
Garfield (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name  
14010005 Colorado headwaters-Plateau

## SITE DESCRIPTION

<b>Minimum Elevation</b>	9,000.00	<b>Feet</b>	2,743.00	<b>Meters</b>
<b>Maximum Elevation</b>	9,700.00	<b>Feet</b>	2,957.00	<b>Meters</b>

### Site Description

This portion of Meadow Creek is characterized by a small mountain stream near the creek's headwaters. At the confluence of numerous small drainages, where Meadow Creek forms, there is a fairly large reservoir, Meadow Creek Lake. Downstream from the reservoir, the creek cuts through a narrow limestone canyon. Above the canyon, willows (*Salix* spp.) mainly dominate the riparian area whereas within the canyon Engelmann spruce (*Picea engelmannii*) and subalpine fir (*Abies lasiocarpa*) increase in abundance. Large willow carrs, dominated by mountain willow (*Salix monticola*), Drummond's willow (*S. drummondiana*), and planeleaf willow (*S. planifolia*), also occur within the confines of the limestone canyon. Further downstream, conifers become the dominant overstory species. 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 riparian area likely does not provide much in the way of flood attenuation given its close proximity downstream from a reservoir and the fact that once Meadow Creek enters the limestone canyon, the gradient greatly increases. This area 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 01/15/2001

Designer Rocchio, F.J.

### Boundary Justification

The boundary encompasses the entire riparian area along Meadow Creek and a portion of the adjacent slopes. However, upstream reaches of Meadow Creek were not included in the site boundaries. A comprehensive management/protection plan needs to consider these areas to ensure hydrological processes, which are necessary for the viability of the wetland and riparian elements, remain intact. The current boundaries allow fluvial processes along the creek to dynamically maintain riparian and wetland communities.

Primary Area 1,564.60 Acres 633.17 Hectares

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## SITE SIGNIFICANCE

**Biodiversity Significance Rank** B4: Moderate Biodiversity Significance

### Biodiversity Significance Comments

The site supports a good (B-ranked) occurrence of the globally apparently secure (G4) but state vulnerable (S3) montane riparian carr (*Salix monticola*/mesic forb). This association is only known from Colorado where over thirty occurrences have been documented.

**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 Rank</u>	<u>State Rank</u>	<u>Driving Site Rank</u>
<u>State ID</u>	<u>State Scientific Name</u>	<u>State Common Name</u>			
24809	<i>Salix monticola</i> / Mesic Forbs Shrubland	Montane Riparian Willow Carr	G4	S3	Yes

## 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** 06/27/2003

**Version Author** Bell, J.B.

## Disclaimer

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