

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Middle Fork Derby Creek

Site Code S.USCOHP*4278

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 1705 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 395638N
State Colorado Longitude 1070824W

<u>Quad Code</u>	<u>Quad Name</u>
39107-H1	Dome Peak
39107-H2	Trappers Lake

County

Garfield (CO)

<u>Watershed Code</u>	<u>Watershed Name</u>
14010001	Colorado headwaters

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	9,700.00 Feet	2,957.00 Meters
Maximum Elevation	11,000.00 Feet	3,353.00 Meters

Site Description

This site consists of a series of subalpine streams and beaver ponds surrounded by aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) and spruce - fir (*Picea - Abies* sp.) forests. The riparian areas are dominated by planeleaf willow (*Salix planifolia*), wolf willow (*S. wolfii*), Drummond's willow (*S. drummondiana*), marsh marigold (*Caltha leptosepala*), and marsh bittercress (*Cardamine cordifolia*). Beaked sedge (*Carex utriculata*), water sedge (*C. aquatilis*), and elephantella (*Pedicularis groenlandica*) dominate around the edges of the beaver ponds. Soils are not mapped by the county soil survey. The U.S. Forest Service in Glenwood Springs may have soil maps for this area. This site contains a riparian area with a fairly high cover of woody vegetation and herbaceous meadows and beaver ponds scattered throughout the area, thus the capacity of this wetland to perform flood attenuation and bank stabilization is likely high. The diversity of wetland habitats likely support populations of avian species and large and small mammals. Excellent vegetation structure along the creek provides shade and woody debris and thus good fish habitat.

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 upper watershed of Middle Fork Derby Creek. Thus, the floodplain and immediate watershed, which are necessary to provide continued hydrological flow and the ability of the creek's fluvial processes to continue flooding, scouring, and sediment deposition, are encompassed. These processes are necessary to ensure the long-term maintenance of the riparian ecosystem.

Primary Area 1,935.78 Acres 783.38 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B4: Moderate Biodiversity Significance

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Biodiversity Significance Comments

A concentration of excellent occurrences of several plant communities secure on a global and state scale. The site supports two excellent (A-ranked) occurrences of common subalpine riparian willow carrs and two excellent (A-ranked) occurrences of common montane wet meadows.

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, and timing, must be managed to maintain population and community viability.

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>
24850	<i>Salix planifolia</i> / <i>Carex aquatilis</i> Shrubland	Subalpine Riparian Willow Carr	G5	S4	Yes
18795	<i>Carex utriculata</i> Herbaceous Vegetation	Beaked Sedge Montane Wet Meadows	G5	S4	Yes
24836	<i>Salix planifolia</i> / <i>Caltha leptosepala</i> Shrubland	Subalpine Riparian Willow Carr	G4	S4	Yes
22745	<i>Carex aquatilis</i> Herbaceous Vegetation	Montane Wet Meadows	G5	S4	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 01/15/2001
Version Author Rocchio, F.J.

Disclaimer

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