

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Mitchell Creek at Storm King Mountain

Site Code S.USCOHP*4006

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 1610 Site Class PCA
Site Alias Mitchell Creek

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 393556N
State Colorado Longitude 1072053W

Quad Code Quad Name

39107-E3	Glenwood Springs
39107-E4	Storm King Mountain
39107-F3	Carbonate

County

Garfield (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name

14010001	Colorado headwaters
14010005	Colorado headwaters-Plateau

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	5,800.00 Feet	1,767.84 Meters
Maximum Elevation	10,600.00 Feet	3,230.88 Meters

Site Description

The Mitchell Creek sites are located along Mitchell Creek from just north of its confluence with the Colorado River, and extending to its headwaters in the White River National Forest. The bedrock is composed of Ordovician Formation, a mixture of dolomite, quartz, and Leadville limestone. The dominant vegetation in the area includes aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) forests and stands of Gambel's Oak (*Quercus gambelii*). The land owners include Bureau of Land Management and White River National Forest, as well as a small parcel of private land in the southern portion of the site. There do not appear to be any definable threats at this time.

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 04/09/1996
Designer Fleming, C.C.

Boundary Justification

The planning boundary includes the headwaters and major tributaries to the downstream boundary. An upland buffer is provided to limit direct disturbance and local hydrologic alterations.

Primary Area	2,893.77 Acres	1,171.07 Hectares
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SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site contains an excellent (A ranked) occurrence of the globally vulnerable subspecies Colorado River cutthroat trout. Unranked occurrences of three natural communities are also present. Cutthroat trout are a sensitive species that are native to the Colorado River Basin, and have recently been in decline. Remnant populations still remain in Colorado, Wyoming, and Utah. A waterfall in Mitchell Creek below the current

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cutthroat trout distribution prevents invasion by non-native trout, protecting the genetic purity (A+) of this population and increasing its conservation importance. A verified sighting of a wolverine (*Gulo gulo*) was reported from 4.5 miles inside the county line on the Rio Blanco side of this site in 1996. This is the most recent record of a verified wolverine sighting in the CNHP database. There are few recent records of wolverines in Colorado; most localities were documented in the early nineteenth century. The dates of the six wolverine records in Garfield County range from 1889 to 1979. And while it was probably never common in this state, reports are that prior to 1890 the species was generally distributed in densely forested parts of Colorado's high country. The wolverine is considered critically imperiled (S1) in Colorado due to the low number of locations, lack of verifiable recent records, low population density in any remaining pockets of habitat, and habitat fragmentation by roads (Fitzgerald et al. 1994).

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 the 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>
24513	<i>Festuca idahoensis</i> - <i>Festuca thurberi</i> Herbaceous Vegetation	Montane Grasslands	G3G4	S3S4	No
21796	<i>Oncorhynchus clarkii pleuriticus</i>	Colorado River Cutthroat Trout	G4T3	S3	Yes
24867	<i>Picea pungens</i> / <i>Cornus sericea</i> Woodland	Montane Riparian Forest	G4	S2	No
24685	<i>Quercus gambelii</i> - <i>Cercocarpus montanus</i> / (<i>Carex geyeri</i>) Shrubland	Mixed Mountain Shrublands	G3	S3	No

REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
-	No Data

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date	04/09/1996
Version Author	Fleming, C.C.

Disclaimer

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