

# Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Morrison Creek

Site Code S.USCOHP\*7182

## IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 824 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 401137N  
State Colorado Longitude 1064543W

Quad Code Quad Name  
40106-B7 Green Ridge

County  
Routt (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name  
14050001 Upper Yampa

## SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	8,000.00 Feet	2,438.00 Meters
Maximum Elevation	9,000.00 Feet	2,743.00 Meters

### Site Description

The Morrison Creek site is located approximately 32 km (20 mi) south of Steamboat Springs. Morrison Creek flows north from Lynx Pass 2,700 m (9,000 ft) through a high elevation valley, 2,400 m (8,000 feet) valley to its confluence with the Yampa River just south of Pleasant Valley. The site is 4.8 km (3 mi) long. It is bordered to the west by Green Ridge and to the east by the Gore Range. Several creeks feed Morrison Creek within the site: Muddy, Clear, Beaver, and Bushy. County Road 16 bisects the site. This site supports an extensive willow carr which is fragmented by subdivisions and proposed subdivisions. Irrigated hay meadows and grazing pastures dominate the floodplain adjacent to the riparian communities

### Key Environmental Factors

No Data

### Climate Description

No Data

### Land Use History

Grazing - cattle - fairly heavy? Old beaver pond cuts - no recent activity near plot, but some new sticks on dam in main channel.

### Cultural Features

No Data

## SITE DESIGN

Site Map P - Partial Mapped Date 01/09/1995  
Designer Kettler, S.M.

### Boundary Justification

The boundary encompasses occurrence and a small buffer (including road since maintenance activity etc. could affect). Community mostly dependent (probably) on in-stream flow. Boundary extends south to pick up presumed willow carr; boundaries of occurrence are not known.

Primary Area 140.27 Acres 56.76 Hectares

## SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B4: Moderate Biodiversity Significance

### Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site encompasses a good quality (B-ranked) occurrence of a state rare (G5/S2) plant community, *Salix geyeriana* / *Carex utriculata* and fair (C-ranked) occurrences of the state rare *Salix boothii* / *Calamagrostis canadensis* (G4/S2) and the globally vulnerable *Alnus incana* - mixed *Salix* spp. (G3/S3). This site is representative of the wetland areas in this portion of Routt County. Also, the site is presently heavily grazed,

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however, even more importantly, are threats from development.

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

Elements are dependent on natural hydrology. Activities within the watershed which could impact the hydrology should be evaluated for impact of the elements present.

## Information Needs

No Data

### ASSOCIATED ELEMENTS OF BIODIVERSITY

<u>Element State ID</u>	<u>State Scientific Name</u>	<u>State Common Name</u>	<u>Global Rank</u>	<u>State Rank</u>	<u>Driving Site Rank</u>
24978	<i>Salix boothii</i> / <i>Calamagrostis canadensis</i> Shrubland	Booth Willow/Canadian Reed Grass	G3G4Q	S2	No
24912	<i>Alnus incana</i> - <i>Salix</i> ( <i>monticola</i> , <i>lucida</i> , <i>ligulifolia</i> ) Shrubland	Thinleaf Alder-Mixed Willow Species	G3	S3	Yes
24803	<i>Salix geyeriana</i> / <i>Carex utriculata</i> Shrubland	Geyer's Willow/Beaked Sedge	G5	S3	No

### REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
168083	Culver, D.R. and J. Sanderson. 1996. Final Report: A Natural Heritage Assessment of Wetlands and Riparian Areas in Routt County, Colorado. Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Fort Collins, CO.

### ADDITIONAL TOPICS

## Additional Topics

No Data

### VERSION

Version Date	01/09/1995
Version Author	Kettler, S.M.

### Disclaimer

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