

# Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name North Fork Derby Creek

Site Code S.USCOHP\*22921

## IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 536 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 395831N  
State Colorado Longitude 1070531W

Quad Code Quad Name

39107-H1 Dome Peak

County

Garfield (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name

14010001 Colorado headwaters

## SITE DESCRIPTION

|                   |                |                 |
|-------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Minimum Elevation | 9,970.00 Feet  | 3,039.00 Meters |
| Maximum Elevation | 10,732.00 Feet | 3,271.00 Meters |

### Site Description

This PCA lies within the Flat Tops Wilderness Area of the White River National Forest approximately 1.5 miles from the nearest trailhead at Stump Park. The remoteness of this PCA leaves it free of disturbance. The site encircles a high altitude wet meadow and totals 1,354 acres, lying between 9,970 and 10,732 feet. The wetland occupies a level plane along North Fork Derby Creek and the PCA boundary includes forested areas upslope of the meadow and creek. The meadow includes a rich assemblage of grasses, sedges and rushes common to mesic alpine meadows. The slopes rising from the meadow are forested with spruce-fir (*Picea* spp.-*Albies lasiocarpa*) and aspen (*Populus tremuloides*). The substratum of the area consists of unconsolidated colluvial deposits from the Quaternary age formed by landslides. Sedimentary rock including sandstone and siltstone dating to the Tertiary age is found at higher elevation. The sole species responsible for the designation of this PCA is the boreal toad (Southern Rocky Mountain population). A single boreal toad was observed here in August 2000, and there was no evidence of breeding.

### 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 12/12/2000  
Designer Sovell, J.R.

### Boundary Justification

The boundary rings the ponds and wetlands of the area, and includes buffers on the adjacent slopes together with the significant riparian community downstream. This is intended to protect riparian and wetland vegetation and adjacent forests for the toads. The current hydrologic processes are necessary to allow persistence of the toads and hydrologic modifications to the wetland and the upper watershed supplying it should be avoided. Forces outside of the boundary, however, are likely to impact site quality. In addition dispersing individuals may travel outside of the boundaries.

Primary Area 1,354.21 Acres 548.03 Hectares

## SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

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## Biodiversity Significance Comments

This PCA includes an extant occurrence of the boreal toad (Southern Rocky Mountain population) an element that is critically imperiled in the state and imperiled on a global scale. Size, reproductive status and breeding location of the boreal toad population is unknown, should be determined.

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

[Sovell 2000:] Consideration of how future uses may impact the watershed should be considered in management of the PCA, including nutrient loading, hydroperiod, water volume and quality.

## 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> |
| 20351           | <i>Bufo boreas</i> pop. 1    | Boreal Toad (Southern Rocky Mountain Population) | G4T1Q         | S1           | Yes              |

## REFERENCES

## Reference ID                      Full Citation

-                                      No Data

## ADDITIONAL TOPICS

## Additional Topics

No Data

## VERSION

Version Date      12/12/2000

Version Author    Sovell, J.R.

## Disclaimer

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