

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Northwater Creek

Site Code S.USCOHP*5978

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 300 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 393629N
State Colorado Longitude 1075837W

Quad Code Quad Name

39107-E8 Anvil Points
39108-E1 Forked Gulch
39107-F8 Rio Blanco

County

Garfield (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name

14010006 Parachute-Roan

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation 7,680.00 Feet 2,341.00 Meters
Maximum Elevation 9,000.00 Feet 2,743.00 Meters

Site Description

Northwater Creek originates from the east edge of the Roan Plateau. Northwater Creek flows east to west and joins Trapper Creek from the north to form East Middle Fork Parachute Creek. The drainage is characterized by forested (*Picea* spp., *Abies lasiocarpa*, *Populus tremuloides*) north-facing slopes, and shrublands (*Artemisia tridentata vaseyana*) on the south-facing slopes. The dominant species along the riparian corridor include *Salix monticola* and *Carex utriculata*. The upper reaches of the drainage are fairly open, lacking any sort of canyon, and are subsequently used readily by domestic livestock. The lower stretches of the drainage occur in a tight, closed-wall canyon. Colorado River cutthroat trout use the extent of the drainage, but are found in larger numbers in the lower reaches.

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 02/27/2003
Designer Handwerk, J.E.

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the extent of the stream and the slopes surrounding the creek. This boundary includes all known element occurrences in the area and a buffer suitable to protect them from direct disturbances.

Primary Area 4,620.80 Acres 1,869.98 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site contains a good (B-ranked) occurrence of a plant community (*Artemisia tridentata* ssp. *vaseyana*/*Festuca thurberi*) which is globally vulnerable (G3). It also contains several other good

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occurrences of wetland plant communities, and an occurrence of the Colorado River cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarki pleuriticus*) a fish subspecies which is globally vulnerable (T3).

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 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>
24818	<i>Artemisia tridentata</i> ssp. <i>vaseyana</i> / <i>Festuca thurberi</i> Shrubland	Western Slope Sagebrush Shrublands	G3G4	S1S2	Yes
18994	<i>Argillochloa dasyclada</i>	Utah fescue	G3	S3	No
24327	<i>Aegolius funereus</i>	Boreal Owl	G5	S2	No
18795	<i>Carex utriculata</i> Herbaceous Vegetation	Beaked Sedge Montane Wet Meadows	G5	S4	No
22745	<i>Carex aquatilis</i> Herbaceous Vegetation	Montane Wet Meadows	G5	S4	No
21796	<i>Oncorhynchus clarkii pleuriticus</i>	Colorado River Cutthroat Trout	G4T3	S3	No
24882	<i>Salix monticola</i> / <i>Carex utriculata</i> Shrubland	Montane Riparian Willow Carr	G3	S3	No
24138	<i>Juncus balticus</i> Herbaceous Vegetation	Western Slope Wet Meadows	G5	S5	No

REFERENCES

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

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date	02/27/2003
Version Author	Handwerk, J.E.

Disclaimer

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