

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Otter Creek

Site Code S.USCOHP*10254

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 532 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 395019N
State Colorado Longitude 1061619W

Quad Code Quad Name
39106-G3 Mount Powell

County
Summit (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name
14010002 Blue

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	8,300.00	Feet	2,530.00	Meters
Maximum Elevation	8,400.00	Feet	2,560.00	Meters

Site Description

The Otter Creek site consists of a series of beaver ponds that are fed by Otter Creek and several intermittent streams. The ponds support beaver, muskrat, brook trout and aquatic vegetation e.g., water milfoil (*Myriophyllum sibiricum*) and bladderwort (*Utricularia macrorhiza*). The montane riparian willow carr (*Salix monticola* - *Salix geyeriana* / mesic forb) extends throughout the site. It is approximately 500 acres and ranges in elevation from 2,530 m (8,300 ft.) to 2,560 m (8,400 ft.). There are two-track roads and hay fields adjacent to the site. The understory in the drier areas consists of hay grasses. Uplands support communities of quaking aspen - Engelmann spruce (*Populus tremuloides* - *Picea engelmannii*) to the south and sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata vaseyana*) shrublands to the west.

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 12/09/1997

Designer Culver, D.R.

Boundary Justification

The boundary encompasses the riparian and wetland communities and the intermittent streams on U.S. Forest Service lands. A much larger area including the full watershed of Otter Creek needs to be considered when developing a plan for the long-term viability of this site.

Primary Area 392.61 Acres 158.88 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

The Otter Creek site supports an excellent (A-ranked) example of a globally vulnerable (G3/S3) montane riparian forest (*Salix monticola* - *Salix geyeriana* / mesic forb) and a good (B-ranked) example of a submerged palustrine community (*Myriophyllum sibiricum*) whose global status is unknown (GUQ/SU). This site was one of the best wetlands observed in the Lower Blue River Basin for private lands.

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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</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>
24573	<i>Salix geyeriana</i> - <i>Salix monticola</i> / Mesic Forbs Shrubland	Geyer's Willow-Rocky Mountain Willow/Mesic Forb	G3	S3	Yes
24650	<i>Myriophyllum sibiricum</i> Herbaceous Vegetation	Western Slope Floating/Submerged Palustrine Wetlands	GUQ	SU	No

REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
165258	Culver, D.R. 1997. Colorado Natural Heritage Program Wetland Assessments for the 1997 Summit County Wetlands Inventory.

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date 12/09/1997

Version Author Culver, D.R.

Disclaimer

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