

# Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Park Creek at Vega Reservoir

Site Code S.USCOHP\*22999

## IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 1243 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 391039N  
State Colorado Longitude 1074742W

Quad Code Quad Name  
39107-B7 Vega Reservoir

County  
Mesa (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name  
14010005 Colorado headwaters-Plateau

## SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	5,100.00 Feet	1,554.00 Meters
Maximum Elevation	6,000.00 Feet	1,829.00 Meters

### Site Description

Park Creek has a narrow creek bottom and is surrounded by conifer dominated hillsides. At upper elevations, the riparian zone is dominated by subalpine fir (*Abies lasiocarpa*), Engelmann spruce (*Picea engelmannii*), thinleaf alder (*Alnus incana*). Further downstream, thinleaf alder becomes more dominant along with Drummond's willow (*Salix drummondiana*), red-osier dogwood (*Cornus sericea*), narrowleaf cottonwood (*Populus angustifolia*), and aspen (*P. tremuloides*). Structural and species diversity along the creek is high. A large hillside seep occurs on a west-facing slope along the middle portion of the drainage. The seep is dominated by red-osier dogwood, fowl mannagrass (*Glyceria striata*), monkeyflower (*Mimulus guttatus*), brookgrass (*Catabrosa aquatica*), woolly sedge (*Carex pellita*), small-winged sedge (*C. microptera*), and horsetail (*Equisetum arvense*). Soils along drainages are derived from alluvium and vary in texture depending on geomorphic position.

### 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 02/05/2002

Designer Rocchio, F.J.

### Boundary Justification

Boundaries are drawn to encompass the ecological processes believed necessary for long term viability of the elements. These boundaries will ensure continued natural surface flow and thus allow fluvial processes such as flood scouring, lateral flow, and channel meandering, to maintain a dynamic distribution of riparian and wetland plant associations along the drainage.

Primary Area 2,193.65 Acres 887.74 Hectares

## SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

### Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site supports a good occurrence of a montane riparian shrubland (*Alnus incana*-*Salix drummondiana*) which is vulnerable throughout its range (G3). This plant association has only been documented from

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Colorado and is a small, but widespread plant association. It is highly threatened by improper livestock grazing and stream impoundments. The association is generally found along steep-gradient streams with stable, shaded stream banks. The site also supports a good occurrence and an excellent occurrence of two common riparian plant associations.

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>
24860	<i>Populus angustifolia</i> / <i>Cornus sericea</i> Woodland	Cottonwood Riparian Forest	G4	S3	No
24684	<i>Abies lasiocarpa</i> / <i>Alnus incana</i> Forest	Montane Riparian Forests	G5	S5	No
24743	<i>Alnus incana</i> - <i>Salix drummondiana</i> Shrubland	Montane Riparian Shrubland	G3	S3	Yes

## REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
169188	Rocchio, Joe. 2001. Colorado Natural Heritage Program Survey of Critical Wetlands of Mesa County.

## ADDITIONAL TOPICS

### Additional Topics

No Data

## VERSION

Version Date 02/05/2002  
Version Author Rocchio, F.J.

## Disclaimer

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