

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Piedra River

Site Code S.USCOHP*9045

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 471 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 373115N
State Colorado Longitude 1070434W

<u>Quad Code</u>	<u>Quad Name</u>
37107-E1	Palomino Mountain
37107-D1	Pagosa Peak

County

Mineral (CO)

<u>Watershed Code</u>	<u>Watershed Name</u>
14080101	Upper San Juan
14080102	Piedra
13010001	Rio Grande headwaters

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	8,160.00	Feet	2,487.00	Meters
Maximum Elevation	12,520.00	Feet	3,816.00	Meters

Site Description

Tundra on western aspect mid-to upperslope. This site includes alpine and montane habitat. The site is generally characterized as a narrow valley with a high gradient stream above the falls. The slopes are primarily white fir (*Abies concolor*), Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) with aspen (*Populus tremuloides*); Southwestern white pine (*Pinus strobiformis*) and ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) are subdominant. Ponderosa pine is more prevalent on west facing slope of valley. Exotics are invading from grazing lands down valley. Canadian thistle, is the most prevalent of the non-natives. The stream bed is composed of very coarse cobble and boulder fragments. The upper elevations support a tundra habitat where over 200 individuals of the state rare Altai cottongrass (*Eriophorum altaicum* var. *neogaeum*) have been found. The cottongrass occurs on a saturated slope with a volcanic extrusive parent material on a glacial outwash plain. In 1997 an unconfirmed boreal toad (*Bufo boreas* pop. 1) egg mass was discovered in a kettle pond near Monument Lake.

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 05/13/1997
Designer Fleming, C.C.

Boundary Justification

The planning boundary includes the headwaters and major tributaries from both ends of the barriers. A 1000 foot upland buffer is provided to limit direct physical disturbance and local hydrologic alteration. This should be sufficient to protect potential breeding habitat for the for the toad as well.

Primary Area	9,123.22	Acres	3,692.05	Hectares
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SITE SIGNIFICANCE

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Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

Unranked occurrence of a G4T1Q (equals G3) subspecies. This site contains a population of the imperiled Colorado River cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarki pleuriticus*). The population has a genetic purity rank of "A-". In addition to the fish the site supports a good example of a rare montane riparian forest. A healthy population of the imperiled Colorado River cutthroat trout and a good example of a montane riparian forest are driving the rank of this site.

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

Hydrological processes originating outside of the planning boundary, including water quality, quantity, timing and flow must be managed to maintain site viability.

Information Needs

No Data

ASSOCIATED ELEMENTS OF BIODIVERSITY

<u>Element</u>			<u>Global Rank</u>	<u>State Rank</u>	<u>Driving Site Rank</u>
<u>State ID</u>	<u>State Scientific Name</u>	<u>State Common Name</u>			
24541	<i>Populus angustifolia</i> / <i>Alnus incana</i> Woodland	Montane Riparian Forest	G3	S3	Yes
21796	<i>Oncorhynchus clarkii pleuriticus</i>	Colorado River Cutthroat Trout	G4T3	S3	Yes
21874	<i>Eriophorum altaicum</i> var. <i>neogaeum</i>	Altai cottongrass	G4?T3T4	S3	No
20351	<i>Bufo boreas</i> pop. 1	Boreal Toad (Southern Rocky Mountain Population)	G4T1Q	S1	No

REFERENCES

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

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date	05/13/1997
Version Author	Fleming, C.C.

Disclaimer

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