

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Roaring Fork River at Brush Creek

Site Code S.USCOHP*10352

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 298 Site Class PCA
Site Alias Brush Creek at Roaring Fork River
Site Alias Brush Creek

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 391437N
State Colorado Longitude 1065237W

<u>Quad Code</u>	<u>Quad Name</u>
39106-B8	Highland Peak
39106-C8	Woody Creek
39106-B7	Aspen

County

<u>Watershed Code</u>	<u>Watershed Name</u>
14010004	Roaring Fork

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation - Feet - Meters
Maximum Elevation - Feet - Meters

Site Description

The Brush Creek PCA is located on the Roaring Fork River between Aspen and Basalt. This stretch of the river is within a deep canyon. The canyon walls rise to about 7600 feet from the River at approximately 7200 feet. The vegetation at this PCA is composed of a montane riparian forest dominated by narrowleaf cottonwood (*Populus angustifolia*). The co-occurrence of narrowleaf cottonwood with blue spruce (*Picea pungens*) and alder (*Alnus incana*) makes this PCA significant. This community type follows the river for about 3 miles and is very narrow, but is in good condition. Uplands are dominated by oak-serviceberry (*Quercus gambelii*-*Amelanchier utahensis*) shrubland, sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*) shrublands, scattered Rocky Mountain juniper (*Juniperus scopulorum*) and outcrops of river cobbles and dark Mancos Shale. The shale outcrops support the Colorado endemic, Osterhout's penstemon (*Penstemon osterhoutii*). An old road/foot path, a power line, and an abandoned railroad track run adjacent to the occurrence for about 1-2 miles. These corridors are spreading non-native plants such as orchard grass (*Dactylis glomerata*), timothy (*Phleum pratense*), brome (*Bromus* sp.), and thistles (*Cirsium* spp.). The Brush Creek PCA includes approximately 450 acres.

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 05/06/1999
Designer Spackman, S.C.

Boundary Justification

The boundary is drawn to protect the significant community from direct disturbances. A much larger area should be considered to protect the specific hydrologic regime (water quality and natural flooding) of this PCA. Narrowleaf cottonwoods require periodic, above average, floods usually in June for seed germination and survival. Therefore, it is important to maintain a natural flooding regime.

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Primary Area 453.72 Acres

183.61 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site supports a good (B-ranked) example of a globally vulnerable (G3/S3) riparian plant community (*Populus angustifolia* - *Picea pungens* / *Alnus incana*). The lower reaches of the Roaring Fork River Valley have been fragmented by residential, recreational, and agricultural developments. High quality riparian areas are few and far between because of this fragmentation. This site contains an example of a relatively large remnant of a once larger riparian forest. This specific community type is known from 71 locations in Colorado, however, only 15 of these are considered to be in excellent condition. Two of these are found in the Roaring Fork Watershed, along Avalanche Creek, and along Middle Thompson Creek.

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 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>			
24823	<i>Populus angustifolia</i> - <i>Picea pungens</i> / <i>Alnus incana</i> Woodland	Montane Riparian Forests	G3	S3	Yes

REFERENCES

Reference ID **Full Citation**

- No Data

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date 06/30/2003

Version Author Bell, J.B.

Disclaimer

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