

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Roaring Fork at Old Snowmass

Site Code S.USCOHP*10256

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 1214 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 391908N
State Colorado Longitude 1065620W

Quad Code Quad Name
39106-C8 Woody Creek

County

Watershed Code Watershed Name
14010004 Roaring Fork

SITE DESCRIPTION

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

Site Description

This site occurs at the steep base of the north-facing slopes of Williams Hill and includes a narrow band of riparian vegetation between the highway and the Roaring Fork River at approximately 7,000 feet. The stretch is dominated by narrowleaf cottonwood (*Populus angustifolia*) with a mosaic of diverse shrubs, which creates the four different riparian plant communities of special concern. Narrowleaf cottonwood with blue spruce (*Picea pungens*) and alder (*Alnus incana*) is the largest of these riparian plant communities and stretches for approximately two miles. Exotic plant species, such as houndstongue (*Cynoglossum officinale*), Kentucky bluegrass (*Poa pratensis*) and the plumeless thistle (*Carduus acanthoides*) are currently invading the native communities. This site includes approximately 700 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 05/05/1999
Designer Spackman, S.C.

Boundary Justification

The boundary is drawn to encompass the riparian communities and a 1,000 foot buffer along each side of the river to protect from direct disturbances such as trampling, habitat destruction, and unnatural erosion. A much larger area should be considered in any long-term management plan to protect the hydrologic regime (quality, quantity, and flooding) of the site.

Primary Area 1,028.70 Acres 416.30 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B4: Moderate Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

There are two globally rare riparian plant communities within this site, *Populus angustifolia* / *Betula occidentalis* and *Populus angustifolia* / *Prunus virginiana*. Both are in degraded condition. The overall size of the occurrences is small and contains exotic plant species in the understory. This stretch of the Roaring Fork

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River is sandwiched between two high quality upland sites, the Williams Hill and the Cerise Gulch sites. Although the riparian communities are in poor condition (D-ranked), the adjacent uplands are high quality examples of plant communities. Shrew specimens were taken at two locations within this site during the 1997 field surveys. Long-tailed shrews (*Sorex* spp.) are difficult to discern at the species level, and identification is only accurately accomplished with cranial (skeletal) analysis. The specimens have been sent to an expert in New Mexico to be verified. The preliminary external measurements and dental characteristics indicate Preble's shrew (*Sorex* c.f. *preblei*) among the specimens captured. In Colorado, there are only three locations documented. Additionally, there is a report of a wintering Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) in the area. The Mountain whitefish (*Prosopium williamsoni*) is known to occur in Roaring Fork River from Glenwood Springs to near Woody Creek and is unverified between Woody Creek and Aspen. There are few rivers in Colorado known to contain this fish species. It is mostly restricted to the northwestern portion of the state.

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>			
21249	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	Bald Eagle	G5	S1B,S3N	No
24884	<i>Populus angustifolia</i> / <i>Betula occidentalis</i> Woodland	Montane Riparian Forest	G3	S3	No
24941	<i>Populus angustifolia</i> / <i>Prunus virginiana</i> Woodland	Narrowleaf Cottonwood/Common Chokecherry	G2Q	S1	Yes

REFERENCES

Reference ID Full Citation

- No Data

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date 05/05/1999

Version Author Spackman, S.C.

Disclaimer

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