

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Roaring Fork

Site Code S.USCOHP*27217

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 2491 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 401521N
State Colorado Longitude 1053253W

Quad Code Quad Name
40105-C5 Longs Peak

County
Boulder (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name
10190005 St. Vrain

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	8,840.00 Feet	2,694.43 Meters
Maximum Elevation	9,400.00 Feet	2,865.12 Meters

Site Description

The Roaring Fork site is in northwestern Boulder County, about 4 miles north of Allenspark. A tributary of Cabin Creek, which is itself a tributary of the North St. Vrain, the Roaring Fork originates in Chasm Lake below the east face of Longs Peak, and descends through an east-facing glacial valley. The site is located on the southern lobe of the terminal moraine bisected by Roaring Fork, on the lower slopes of Mount Meeker. Here Roaring Fork cascades through a series of alternating steep and flat reaches as it flows southeast. South of the creek, a series of ponds and associated wetlands that may represent old beaver activity support a large park willow (*Salix monticola*) / bluejoint reedgrass (*Calamagrostis canadensis*) carr, and a wet meadow dominated by beaked sedge (*Carex utriculata*). Additional species present include bog birch (*Betula glandulosa*), shrubby cinquefoil (*Dasiphora fruticosa* ssp. *floribunda*), water sedge (*Carex aquatilis*), and woolly sedge (*Carex lanuginosa*). Surrounding forested areas are dominated by a mix of lodgepole pine (*Pinus contorta*) and Engelmann spruce (*Picea engelmannii*).

Key Environmental Factors

No Data

Climate Description

No Data

Land Use History

The site may have been grazed in the past. Currently it is used for recreation. A few houses are present at the eastern end.

Cultural Features

No Data

SITE DESIGN

Site Map P - Partial Mapped Date 06/02/2008

Designer Decker, K.L. and J.M. Lemly

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the occurrences and the adjacent stretch of Roaring Fork, allowing for the operation of normal hydrological and ecological processes that support the wetland community, and providing a buffer against direct disturbance. These natural processes are not completely contained within the boundary, and off-site activities within the watershed have the potential to impact the elements of biodiversity present in the area.

Primary Area 202.90 Acres 82.11 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

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Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site supports an excellent (A-ranked) occurrence of a globally vulnerable (G3/S3) *Salix monticola* / *Calamagrostis canadensis* montane willow carr and an excellent (A-ranked) occurrence of a globally common (G5/S4) beaked sedge (*Carex utriculata*) montane wet meadow.

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

Minimal amount of Kentucky bluegrass (*Poa pratensis*) and dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*).

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>			
24514	<i>Salix monticola</i> / <i>Calamagrostis canadensis</i> Shrubland	Montane Willow Carr	G3	S3	Yes
18795	<i>Carex utriculata</i> Herbaceous Vegetation	Beaked Sedge Montane Wet Meadows	G5	S4	No

REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
195190	Neid, S., J. Lemly, K. Decker and D. Culver. 2009. Final Report: Survey of Critical Biological Resources in Boulder County 2007-2008. Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Fort Collins, CO.

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date 06/02/2008
Version Author Decker, K.L. and J.M. Lemly

Disclaimer

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