

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Rocky Fork Creek

Site Code S.USCOHP*3964

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 2045 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 391903N
State Colorado Longitude 1064605W

<u>Quad Code</u>	<u>Quad Name</u>
39106-C7	Ruedi Reservoir
39106-C6	Meredith

County
Pitkin (CO)

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

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	7,500.00 Feet	2,286.00 Meters
Maximum Elevation	11,500.00 Feet	3,505.20 Meters

Site Description

This site follows Rocky Fork Creek from an elevation of 7,500 feet up to its headwaters at 11,500 feet. This creek runs through a narrow valley margined by steep red sandstone cliffs, and opens up to numerous beaver ponds and meadows throughout its course. The riparian community along the lower stretch of Rock Fork Creek consists of spruce - fir forests with alder in the understory (*Abies lasiocarpa* - *Picea engelmannii* / *Alnus incana*). The upland community consists of mixed densities of spruce - fir and Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*). Approximately 3,800 acres are included in the boundaries.

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 04/04/1996
Designer Fleming, C.C.

Boundary Justification

The boundary is drawn to include the entire reach of Rocky Fork Creek that contains Colorado River cutthroat trout as well as an upland buffer which should be sufficient to limit direct physical disturbance and local hydrological alteration. Hydrological processes originating outside of the planning boundary, including water quality, flow, and timing, should be managed to maintain population viability.

Primary Area	3,801.84 Acres	1,538.56 Hectares
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SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

An excellent (A-ranked) occurrence of the globally vulnerable (G4T3/S3) Colorado River cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarki pleuriticus*) has been documented in this site. This subspecies is considered Sensitive by the U.S. Forest Service and is on the State Special Concern list. The greatest threat to the continued viability of Colorado River cutthroat trout is the introduction and migration of non-native fish species.

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Competition with brook trout and hybridization with rainbow trout are threats to this subspecies (Behnke 1992). Young et al. (1996) considered the trout within this site to be a conservation population, meaning that it is believed to be indigenous, genetically pure, allopatric above a barrier; and not believed to be in a recently stocked watershed.

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, and timing, must be managed to maintain the population viability.

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>
21796	<i>Oncorhynchus clarkii pleuriticus</i>	Colorado River Cutthroat Trout	G4T3	S3	Yes
24684	<i>Abies lasiocarpa</i> / <i>Alnus incana</i> Forest	Montane Riparian Forests	G5	S5	No

REFERENCES

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

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date	02/19/1999
Version Author	Siemers, J. L.

Disclaimer

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