

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Sauls Creek

Site Code S.USCOHP*9303

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 1395 Site Class PCA
Site Alias Middle Tributary to Saul Creek
Site Alias Sauls Creek Tributary

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 371501N
State Colorado Longitude 1073000W

Quad Code Quad Name

37107-B5	Bayfield
37107-B4	Pargin Mountain
37107-C5	Ludwig Mountain
37107-C4	Baldy Mountain

County

La Plata (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name

14080101 Upper San Juan

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	7,480.00	Feet	2,280.00	Meters
Maximum Elevation	8,000.00	Feet	2,438.40	Meters

Site Description

The site encompasses an ephemeral stream in an entrenched natural gully. The riparian community is narrow and patchy. Gas/oil well pads occur downstream. The site is within a dry ponderosa forest with dense stands of Gambel oak (*Quercus gambelii*). Incised gullies support ephemeral waters of the Sauls Creek drainage. Vegetation is intermixed upland forest and riparian forest. Ponderosa pines (*Pinus ponderosa*) are situated in the riparian zone with occasional aspen trees in the overstory. Patches of dense willows (*Salix ligulifolia*, *Salix exigua*, and *Salix geyeriana*) occur in the gullies with dense shrubs consisting of Gambel oak, river hawthorn and snowberry. The general area is moderately to heavily grazed. Understory is a mixture of native and non-native plants. Road sides have been revegetated with non-native grasses.

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 12/10/2003
Designer March, M.A.

Boundary Justification

The boundary surrounds the headwaters of the Sauls Creek drainage. This boundary should protect the occurrences from direct disturbance, and is thought to protect the avian, macroinvertebrate and periphyton communities and limit impacts from sedimentation (Noel et al. 1986, Spackman and Hughes 1995, Karr and Schlosser 1978).

Primary Area 447.95 Acres 181.28 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

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Biodiversity Significance Comments

The site is drawn for a good (B-ranked) and a fair (C-ranked) occurrence of a globally imperiled (G2G3/S2S3) *Salix ligulifolia* shrubland plant community. This site does not warrant a B2 designation due to increasing surrounding development pressures.

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</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>
24155	<i>Salix ligulifolia</i> Shrubland	Montane Willow Carr	G2G3	S2S3	No
24155	<i>Salix ligulifolia</i> Shrubland	Montane Willow Carr	G2G3	S2S3	Yes

REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
172808	J. R. Karr and I. J. Schlosser. 1978. Water resources and the land-water interface. Science 201: 229-234.
184533	March, M. and D. Culver. 2003. Colorado Natural Heritage Program Field Survey for La Plata County Wetlands.
165959	Noel, D.S., C.W. Martin and C.A. Federer. 1986. Effects of Forest Clearcutting in New England on Stream Macroinvertebrates and Periphyton. Environmental Management 10: 661-670.
170844	Randolph, D., Smith, Kettler, Redders, Roy, and Aitken. 1994. San Juan National Forest Riparian Site Survey.
159511	Spackman, S. C. and J. W. Hughes. 1995. Assessment of Minimum Stream Corridor Width for Biological Conservation: Species Richness and Distribution Along Mid-Order Streams in Vermont, USA. Biological Conservation 71:325-332.

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date 12/10/2003

Version Author March, M.A.

Disclaimer

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