

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Skaguay Reservoir

Site Code S.USCOHP*28251

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 2752 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 384104N
State Colorado Longitude 1050253W

Quad Code Quad Name
38105-F1 Big Bull Mountain

County
Teller (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name
11020002 Upper Arkansas

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	8,500.00 Feet	2,590.80 Meters
Maximum Elevation	9,000.00 Feet	2,743.20 Meters

Site Description

The Skaguay Reservoir site is located in the montane zone on the west slope of the Front Range in Colorado. The site encompasses a steep-walled canyon that is drained by Beaver Creek. Beaver Creek is impounded by the Skaguay Reservoir and dam upstream of the site. Below the dam the valley is a fairly wide, with a low gradient and here Beaver Creek is classified as a Rosgen type C4 stream that is modified by dam impacts and grazing. Further downstream where the valley narrows and the gradient increases, the stream transitions to a B class stream, grazing impacts cease and stream quality improves. Riparian habitat is characterized by a linear mosaic of mesic grasslands and willows (*Salix* spp.) shrublands with intermittent tree cover dominated by Colorado blue spruce (*Picea pungens*) with occasional white fir (*Abies concolor*). This relatively lush riparian zone contrasts sharply with adjacent uplands where topography is characterized rolling hills interrupted by steep rock outcrops and cliffs. Cliff habitat is occupied by a diversity of chasmophytes (plants that inhabit rock crevices) including forbs such as James' teleonix (*Telesonix jamesii*) and Front Range alum-root (*Heuchera hallii*) and shrubs including waxflower (*Jamesia americana*). West-facing slopes are mixed Engelmann spruce - quaking aspen (*Picea engelmannii* - *Populus tremuloides*) forest while east-facing slopes are a mosaic of stands of ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) with limber pine (*Pinus flexilis*) on ridge tops interspersed with xeric graminoid meadows and shrublands. Upland and riparian geology is composed of granitic rocks of 1,700 m.y. age group (Tweto 1979). Soils in this site have a shallow profile with abundant gravel that is unstable and has little water holding capacity.

Key Environmental Factors

Variables that influence site biota are: physical characteristics especially cliffs and seeps; and ecological processes including especially grazing intensity as it relates to alteration of hydrological process as a result of soil and vegetation alteration.

Climate Description

Wide climate variations occur within short distances due to dramatic topographic variation and elevational changes from the high peaks of the Front Range to the rolling foothills to the west. At this site on in the montane zone site at an average elevation of 9,400 feet, from 1971 through 2000, coldest temperatures occurred in January with an average maximum of 35.62 °F and a minimum of 11.80 °F. Warmest temperatures occurred in July with an average maximum of 73.80 °F and an average minimum of 47.50 °F. Annual average maximum precipitation was 21.68 inches. May through August were the wettest months of the year with an average of 3.33 inches precipitation per month. Driest months are December, January and February with 0.58, 0.46 and 0.46 inches of precipitation respectively. March through June and September through November have intermediate amount of precipitation (Prism 2010).

Land Use History

No Data

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Cultural Features

No Data

SITE DESIGN

Site Map Y - Yes

Mapped Date 01/03/2010

Designer Malone, D.G.

Boundary Justification

The Skaguay Reservoir site boundary was delineated to encompass known element occurrence and potential contiguous habitat. Additional habitat was included to enable ecological processes, especially hydrological processes that are essential to the long-term persistence of the occurrence. Only private lands with written permission were accessed.

Primary Area 119.86 Acres

48.51 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B2: Very High Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

The site supports a good (B-ranked) occurrence of the globally imperiled (G2/S2) James' telesonix (*Telesonix jamesii*). James' telesonix is considered to be only in Colorado and New Mexico. In Colorado it is scattered sporadically on granite tors of the easternmost mountains. In northern New Mexico, it has been reported from one mountain area (NatureServe 2010).

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</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>
19611	<i>Telesonix jamesii</i>	James' telesonix	G2	S2	Yes

REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
198660	Culver, D.R., D. Malone, and A. Shaw. 2011. CNHP Final Report: Survey of Critical Biological Resources in Teller County, Colorado. Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Fort Collins, CO.
198314	NatureServe Explorer (Web Page). Accessed 2010. An online encyclopedia of life [web application]. Version 7.1. NatureServe, Arlington, Virginia. http://www.natureserve.org/explorer .
198649	Prism Climate Group (Web Page). Accessed 2010. Spatial Climate Analysis. http://www.prism.oregonstate.edu/
192747	Tweto, O. 1979. Geologic Map of Colorado, 1:500,000. United States Geological Survey, Department of Interior, and Geologic Survey of Colorado, Denver, CO.

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

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VERSION

Version Date 01/03/2010

Version Author Malone, D.G.

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