

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name South Fork of the Conejos River and Hansen Creek

Site Code S.USCOHP*20380

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 215 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 371442N
State Colorado Longitude 1063632W

<u>Quad Code</u>	<u>Quad Name</u>
37106-B5	Victoria Lake
37106-C5	Platoro
37106-B4	Spectacle Lake

County

Conejos (CO)

<u>Watershed Code</u>	<u>Watershed Name</u>
13010005	Conejos

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	9,000.00 Feet	2,743.00 Meters
Maximum Elevation	12,000.00 Feet	3,658.00 Meters

Site Description

This site encompasses the riparian floodplain of the South Fork of Conejos River downstream to Conejos River, and Hansen Creek nearly to its headwaters. The site encompasses approximately 21 miles of the South Fork of Conejos River and Hanson Creek. The montane willow carr is fairly large and dense, but the possibility of encroachment from non-native plant species is high. The surrounding meadow near here has a history of heavy grazing and may have contributed to the presence of non-native plant species. The narrowleaf cottonwood/thinleaf alder plant community occurs in a large mosaic, but is interrupted by heavily grazed meadows. The total population of transplanted cutthroat trout exceeds 1500. In 1996, the Colorado Division of Wildlife imported trout to two locations within this site. Based on description of hydrology and invertebrate components, the two waterways within this site should provide adequate habitat for the transplanted fish.

Key Environmental Factors

No Data

Climate Description

No Data

Land Use History

No Data

Cultural Features

No Data

SITE DESIGN

Site Map P - Partial Mapped Date 01/27/2000
Designer Schorr, R.A.

Boundary Justification

The site boundaries are drawn to provide habitat for the two occurrences of imperiled montane riparian communities and the two occurrences of cutthroat trout. The boundary of this site is limited to 300 meters on either side of the stream system to provide adequate riparian vegetation for cover and possible prey (insect) needs, yet this potential conservation area, in and of itself, may not be sufficient to ensure the persistence of the population. Ecological processes or environmental impacts that originate upstream of the site may affect the viability of the occurrences.

Primary Area	4,973.35 Acres	2,012.65 Hectares
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SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

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Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site contains a fair occurrence of a willow carr plant community imperiled on a global scale. Also, there is a fair occurrence of a cottonwood/alder plant community vulnerable on a global scale and two occurrences of a native trout subspecies vulnerable on a global scale.

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>			
20351	<i>Bufo boreas</i> pop. 1	Boreal Toad (Southern Rocky Mountain Population)	G4T1Q	S1	No
20205	<i>Oncorhynchus clarkii virginalis</i>	Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout	G4T3	S3	No
20205	<i>Oncorhynchus clarkii virginalis</i>	Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout	G4T3	S3	No
24155	<i>Salix ligulifolia</i> Shrubland	Montane Willow Carr	G2G3	S2S3	Yes
24823	<i>Populus angustifolia</i> - <i>Picea pungens</i> / <i>Alnus incana</i> Woodland	Montane Riparian Forests	G3	S3	No
24541	<i>Populus angustifolia</i> / <i>Alnus incana</i> Woodland	Montane Riparian Forest	G3	S3	No

REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
165924	Kettler, S., J. Rocchio, R. Schorr, J. Burt. 2000. Biological Inventory of Rio Grande and Conejos Counties, Colorado. Unpublished report prepared for The Nature Conservancy. 234 pp.

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date 01/27/2000
Version Author Schorr, R.A.

Disclaimer

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