

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name South Supply Creek

Site Code S.USCOHP*25855

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 2280 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 401532N
State Colorado Longitude 1055342W

Quad Code Quad Name
40105-C8 Bowen Mountain

County
Grand (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name
14010001 Colorado headwaters

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	9,085.00 Feet	2,769.11 Meters
Maximum Elevation	9,150.00 Feet	2,788.92 Meters

Site Description

Site encompasses approximately 0.75 mile along South Supply Creek and an adjacent meadow. South Supply Creek is a free-flowing, first order tributary of Supply Creek. The creek is a small type E drainage along this section. General geology consists of unconsolidated surficial deposits and rocks of the Quaternary Age and igneous rocks of the Precambrian Age. Soils along the drainage and the meadow consists of an upper horizon with high organic content over clays with some areas of fibric peat. The shrub community along South Supply Creek occurs as a mosaic of graminoid dominated meadows and dense shrublands. Shrub layer is dominated by thickets of the short shrub Wolf's willow (*Salix wolfii*). Other shrubs present include diamondleaf willow (*Salix planifolia*), shrubby cinquefoil (*Dasifora floribunda*), and dwarf water birch (*Betula nana*). Common graminoids along the main drainage include water sedge (*Carex aquatilis*), beaked sedge (*Carex utriculata*), tufted hairgrass (*Deschampsia caespitosa*), clustered field sedge (*Carex praegracilis*), and Kentucky bluegrass (*Poa pratensis*). Forbs present include largeleaf aven's (*Geum macrophyllum*), white-marsh marigold (*Caltha leptosepala*), common yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), and felwort (*Swertia perennis*). Southern meadow supports a tufted hairgrass herbaceous community. Occurrence may be seral based on hydrology and could be progressing from a more mesic water sedge dominated community to a dryer tufted hairgrass dominated community. Other graminoids present in the meadow include beaked sedge, bluejoint reedgrass (*Calamagrostis canadensis*), and silvery sedge (*Carex canescens*). Forb species include American bistort (*Polygonum bistortoides*), redpod stonecrop (*Rhodiola rhodantha*), and white-marsh marigold (*Caltha leptosepala*). The site appears to have been grazed in the past with some areas of grazing induced species including Kentucky bluegrass (*Poa pratensis*) and Virginia strawberry (*Fragaria virginiana*). Surrounding uplands are dominated by *Pinus contorta* forests.

Key Environmental Factors

Key environmental factors driving the biota of the site include perennial surface flows, groundwater discharge and recharge, slope degree and shape, and clay soils structure.

Climate Description

Climate likely follows patterns typical of this region of Colorado, being generally xeric throughout the year, with wet spring seasons and late summer "monsoons".

Land Use History

No Data

Cultural Features

No Data

SITE DESIGN

Site Map Y - Yes Mapped Date 12/20/2005
Designer Jones, J.R.

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Boundary Justification

Boundaries includes approximately 0.75 mile along South Supply Creek and an adjacent tributary meadow. Boundaries include buffered uplands and are drawn to encompass those ecological processes necessary to maintain site hydrology, such as perennial surface flows, groundwater discharges, and seasonal flooding. However, boundaries do not include all ecological processes influencing the site. Activities upstream and along adjacent slopes such as improper grazing, water diversion, road maintenance, and development may impact site hydrology and biota.

Primary Area 170.46 Acres 68.98 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B4: Moderate Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site is drawn for an excellent (A-ranked) occurrence of the globally apparently secure (G4/S4) community, tufted hairgrass (*Deschampsia caespitosa*) herbaceous vegetation and a good (B-ranked) occurrence of the globally apparently secure (G4/S3) community *Salix wolfii* - *Carex aquatilis*.

Other Values Rank V3 - Moderate values

Other Values Comments

Site and surrounding uplands contain many camping sites and provide extensively used access for recreational activities including camping, hiking, biking, OHV use, fishing, and hunting. The area also provides important wildlife habitat.

LAND MANAGEMENT ISSUES

Land Use Comments

Predominant land uses are recreational uses such as camping, hiking, fishing, hunting, and OHV use.

Natural Hazard Comments

No Data

Exotics Comments

Kentucky bluegrass (*Poa pratensis*) is present along edges, but is not common or dominant in any areas.

Increaser species such as Virginia strawberry (*Fragaria virginiana*) are common in some areas indicating past disturbances such as livestock grazing.

Offsite

Road maintenance impacts.

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>
24012	<i>Deschampsia caespitosa</i> Herbaceous Vegetation	Mesic Alpine Meadow	G4	S4	Yes
24666	<i>Salix wolfii</i> / <i>Carex aquatilis</i> Shrubland	Subalpine Riparian Willow Carr	G4	S3	Yes

REFERENCES

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Reference ID

Full Citation

160903	Carsey, K., D. Cooper, K. Decker, D. Culver, and G. Kittel. 2003. Statewide wetlands classification and characterization: Wetland plant associations of Colorado. Prepared for Colorado Department of Natural Resources, Denver, CO by Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Fort Collins, CO.
193632	Culver, D.R. and Jones, J.R. 2006. Final Report: Survey of Critical Biological Resources in Grand County. Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Fort Collins, CO.
160140	Dorn, R. D. 1997. Rocky Mountain Region Willow Identification Field Guide. Renewable Resources R2-RR-97-01. Denver, CO: USDA, Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Region. 107p.
167224	Hurd, E.G., N.L. Shaw, J. Mastroguiseppe, L.C. Smithman, and S. Goodrich. 1998. Field Guide to Intermountain Sedges. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rocky Mountain Research Station, Ogden, UT.
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.
193553	USDA, NRCS. 2005. The PLANTS Database, Version 3.5 (http://plants.usda.gov). Data compiled from various sources by Mark W. Skinner. National Plant Data Center < http://npdc.usda.gov/ >, Baton Rouge, LA 70874-4490 USA. Accessed 2005.
172684	Weber, W.A. and R.C. Wittmann. 2001. Colorado Flora: Western Slope, Third Edition. University Press of Colorado, Niwot, CO.

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date 12/20/2005

Version Author Jones, J.R.

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