

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Southwest Cumbres Pass

Site Code S.USCOHP2*1582

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 1048 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 370117N
State Colorado Longitude 1062808W

Quad Code Quad Name

37106-A4	Cumbres
37106-A5	Archuleta Creek
36106-H4	West Fork Rio Brazos

County

Conejos (CO)
Rio Arriba (NM)

Watershed Code Watershed Name

13020102	Rio Chama
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SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	9,320.00 Feet	2,841.00 Meters
Maximum Elevation	11,090.00 Feet	3,380.00 Meters

Site Description

This site encompasses the riparian floodplain of Wolf Creek including a larger extent near Cumbres Pass. The site encompasses approximately 5 miles of Wolf Creek. Rio Grande cutthroat trout thrive in waters with a matrix of pools and riffles, in-stream boulders and other structure, good riparian vegetation cover, and mild slopes (Trotter 1987).

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 02/01/2000
Designer Schorr, R.A.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries are drawn to provide habitat for the occurrence of cutthroat trout within areas that are distinguished by insurmountable boundaries to movement. Within this site, there is a barrier to movement at the Cumbres-Toltec Railroad, but the site boundaries incorporate the two seemingly separate trout populations. The boundary of this site is limited to 300 meters on either side of the creek 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 this occurrence.

Primary Area	1,218.48 Acres	493.10 Hectares
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SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site contains a good occurrence of a fish subspecies, Rio Grande cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarkii*)

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virginalis), that is vulnerable on a global scale (G4T3/S3). There is also a historical occurrence of the globally critically imperiled (G4T1Q/S1) boreal toad (*Bufo boreas* pop. 1).

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

Need to verify site boundaries with on-site investigation. Survey to verify historic *Bufo boreas* records.

ASSOCIATED ELEMENTS OF BIODIVERSITY

<u>Element State ID</u>	<u>State Scientific Name</u>	<u>State Common Name</u>	<u>Global Rank</u>	<u>State Rank</u>	<u>Driving Site Rank</u>
20205	<i>Oncorhynchus clarkii virginalis</i>	Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout	G4T3	S3	Yes
20205	<i>Oncorhynchus clarkii virginalis</i>	Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout	G4T3	S3	No
20351	<i>Bufo boreas</i> pop. 1	Boreal Toad (Southern Rocky Mountain Population)	G4T1Q	S1	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 02/01/2000

Version Author Schorr, R.A.

Disclaimer

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