

# Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Spring Creek North

Site Code S.USCOHP\*24651

## IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 2077 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 371034N  
State Colorado Longitude 1072834W

Quad Code Quad Name  
37107-B4 Pargin Mountain

County  
Archuleta (CO)  
La Plata (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name  
14080101 Upper San Juan

## SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation - Feet - Meters  
Maximum Elevation - Feet - Meters

### Site Description

Spring Creek is a lower foothills stream, located along a steep, narrow canyon within an intermittent stream channel. The dominant plant community (*Populus angustifolia* / *Juniperus scopulorum*) is an uncommon association. The uplands are dominated by Gambel's oak (*Quercus gambelii*), and pinon pine (*Pinus edulis*). South of the site the riparian zone widens with the shrub layer dominated by skunkbrush (*Rhus trilobata*) and river hawthorn (*Crataegus rivularis*). The soils are very sandy with the river bottom dry at the time of the site visit.

### 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 12/09/2003  
Designer Culver, D.R.

### Boundary Justification

The boundaries incorporate an area that will allow for the natural hydrological processes from surrounding drainages. The boundaries encompass the occurrences with a 100 - 500 foot buffer that follows the stream channel and USFS Road 537. It should be noted that the hydrological processes necessary to the element are not fully contained by the site boundaries.

Primary Area 173.77 Acres 70.32 Hectares

## SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

### Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site drawn for a good (B-ranked) example of a globally imperiled (G2G3/S2S3) narrowleaf cottonwood - Rocky Mountain juniper woodland (*Populus tremuloides* / *Juniperus scopulorum*). This plant community is documented from New Mexico and Wyoming, as well as Colorado. *Populus angustifolia* / *Juniperus scopulorum*-dominated riparian areas are uncommon (Carsey et al. 2003). This community occurs along

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lower foothill streams with perennial to intermittent stream flows. This is the only observed occurrence during the 2003 field survey.

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>
24963	<i>Populus angustifolia</i> - <i>Juniperus scopulorum</i> Woodland	Montane Riparian Forest	G2G3	S2S3	Yes

## REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
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.
184533	March, M. and D. Culver. 2003. Colorado Natural Heritage Program Field Survey for La Plata County Wetlands.

## ADDITIONAL TOPICS

### Additional Topics

No Data

## VERSION

Version Date 12/09/2004  
Version Author Culver, D.R.

## Disclaimer

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