

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Spruce Creek

Site Code S.USCOHP*10262

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 1275 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 395450N
State Colorado Longitude 1062458W

Quad Code Quad Name
39106-H4 Sheephorn Mountain

County
Summit (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name
14010002 Blue

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	8,720.00 Feet	2,658.00 Meters
Maximum Elevation	8,920.00 Feet	2,719.00 Meters

Site Description

The Spruce Creek site is located in the northwestern portion of Summit County northeast of Sheephorn Mountain. Spruce Creek enters the willow carr from the south and meanders through the extensive willow carr (*Salix monticola* - *Calamagrostis canadensis*) and series of beaver ponds for approximately one mile where it enters a narrow canyon. The majority of the beaver ponds are located on private lands. The private lands appear to be in very good condition with a viable willow population and little grazing, although there was no on site visit of the private lands. The area located on public land is not grazed heavily by domestic stock, but there is evidence of wildlife utilizing the willow carr e.g., beaver, moose, mule deer, and elk. There are irrigated hay meadows upslope of the riparian area, but they do not appear to be in production or heavily grazed. The uplands consist of Engelmann spruce - Douglas-fir (*Picea engelmannii* - *Pseudotsuga menziesii*) montane forest with quaking aspen (*Populus tremuloides*). This site is approximately 800 acres and ranges in elevation from 2,658 m (8,720 ft.) to 2,719 m (8,920 ft.).

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 12/09/1997
Designer Culver, D.R.

Boundary Justification

The boundary encompasses the low gradient wetlands that are adjacent to Spruce Creek and two intermittent streams to the north and west. A 1,000 ft buffer is drawn from each side of the river to protect from direct disturbances e.g., grazing. A much larger area, including the full watershed of Spruce Creek, needs to be considered when developing a long-term protection or management plan for the riparian community.

Primary Area 494.80 Acres 200.24 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B2: Very High Biodiversity Significance

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Spruce Creek

Site Code S.USCOHP*10262

Biodiversity Significance Comments

The Spruce Creek site supports an excellent (A-ranked) occurrence of a globally rare (G3/S3) montane willow carr (*Salix monticola* - *Calamagrostis canadensis*) community. This site supports the best example of a montane willow carr observed on private lands in the northwestern portion of Summit County and one of the 5 best known occurrences of this element in Colorado. The site was searched for Southern Rocky Mountain boreal toad (*Bufo boreas boreas*), however none were observed.

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>
24514	<i>Salix monticola</i> / <i>Calamagrostis canadensis</i> Shrubland	Montane Willow Carr	G3	S3	Yes

REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
165258	Culver, D.R. 1997. Colorado Natural Heritage Program Wetland Assessments for the 1997 Summit County Wetlands Inventory.

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date 12/09/1997
Version Author Culver, D.R.

Disclaimer

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Spruce Creek

Site Code S.USCOHP*10262

These data are a product and property of Colorado State University, Colorado Natural Heritage Program (CNHP). These data are strictly "on loan" and should be considered "works in progress". Data maintained in the Colorado Natural Heritage Program database are an integral part of ongoing research at CSU and reflect the observations of many scientists, institutions and our current state of knowledge. These data are acquired from various sources, with varying levels of accuracy, and are continually being updated and revised. Many areas have never been surveyed and the absence of data in any particular geographic area does not necessarily mean that species or ecological communities of concern are not present. These data should not be regarded as a substitute for on-site surveys required for environmental assessments. Absence of evidence is NOT evidence of absence. Absence of any data does not mean that other resources of special concern do not occur, but rather CNHP files do not currently contain information to document this presence. CNHP is not responsible for whether other, non-CNHP data providers have secured landowner permission for data collected.

These data are provided for non-commercial purposes only. Under no circumstances are data to be distributed in any fashion to outside parties. To ensure accurate application of data, tabular and narrative components must be evaluated in conjunction with spatial components. Failure to do so constitutes a misuse of the data. The Colorado Natural Heritage Program shall have no liability or responsibility to the data users, or any other person or entity with respect to liability, loss, or damage caused or alleged to be caused directly or indirectly by the data, including but not limited to any interruption of service, loss of business, anticipatory profits or indirect, special, or consequential damages resulting from the use of operation of the data. Data users hereby agree to hold CNHP, Colorado State University, and the State of Colorado harmless from any claim, demand, cause of action, loss, damage or expense from or related to data users use of or reliance on the data, regardless of the cause or nature thereof, and even in the event that such cause is attributable to the negligence or misconduct of CNHP.

These data are provided on an as-is basis, as-available basis without warranties of any kind, expressed or implied, INCLUDING (BUT NOT LIMITED TO) WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY, FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE, AND NON-INFRINGEMENT. Although CNHP maintains high standards of data quality control, CNHP, Colorado State University, and the State of Colorado further expressly disclaim any warranty that the data are error-free or current as of the date supplied