

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Surface Creek

Site Code S.USCOHP*10506

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 1452 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 390106N
State Colorado Longitude 1075020W

Quad Code Quad Name

39107-A7 Leon Peak

County

Delta (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name

14020005 Lower Gunnison

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	8,800.00 Feet	2,682.00 Meters
Maximum Elevation	9,120.00 Feet	2,780.00 Meters

Site Description

Surface Creek is one of the major tributaries of the Gunnison River in Delta County, draining a large portion of Grand Mesa. The riparian vegetation of the creek was sampled on the West Fork above the confluence of Marcott Cr., at 9000 feet elevation. A diverse assortment of plant species, dominated by subalpine fir and Engelmann spruce, line the low gradient stream. Tall shrubs include thinleaf alder, drummond willow and Rocky Mountain willow. Native herbaceous species present were horsetails, fireweed, raspberry, serviceberry, chiming bells, osha, bittercress, and several sedges and rushes. Steep, shady banks above the creek were covered with mosses and mountain lover. The few exotic species noted were Kentucky bluegrass, redtop, and white clover. The area is grazed, but some of the riparian zone has been recently fenced from cattle. Uplands have a mixture of Engelmann spruce and aspen.

Key Environmental Factors

No Data

Climate Description

Arid semi-desert.

Land Use History

No Data

Cultural Features

No Data

SITE DESIGN

Site Map Y - Yes Mapped Date 12/01/1997
Designer Lyon, M.J.

Boundary Justification

The site was drawn to include the area sampled and the adjacent riparian zone upstream, which is roadless, and presumed to be similar, in as good or better condition.

Primary Area 78.80 Acres 31.89 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B4: Moderate Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

A good (B-ranked) occurrence of a plant community with a restricted range (G3).

Other Values Rank No Data

Other Values Comments

No Data

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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>			
24684	<i>Abies lasiocarpa</i> / <i>Alnus incana</i> Forest	Montane Riparian Forests	G5	S5	Yes

REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
-	No Data

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date	12/01/1997
Version Author	Lyon, M.J.

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