

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name The Meadows

Site Code S.USCOHP2*1620

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 1739 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 394932N
State Colorado Longitude 1071807W

Quad Code Quad Name

39107-G3 Deep Lake

County

Garfield (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name

14010001 Colorado headwaters
14050005 Upper White

SITE DESCRIPTION

| | | |
|-------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Minimum Elevation | 9,000.00 Feet | 2,743.00 Meters |
| Maximum Elevation | 10,200.00 Feet | 3,109.00 Meters |

Site Description

This is a large site encompassing portions of the Buck Creek and South Fork White River drainages. Headwaters of Buck Creek occur near Heart Lake. This drainage is characterized by open, rocky meadows of various herbaceous and willow species along the valley bottom surrounded by slopes of subalpine fir (*Abies lasiocarpa*) and Engelmann spruce (*Picea engelmannii*). Wolf willow (*Salix wolfii*), Drummond's willow (*S. drummondiana*), Geyer willow (*S. geyeriana*), mountain bluebells (*Mertensia ciliata*), and sedges (*Carex* spp.) dominate a fairly wide and continuous riparian willow carr. Further downstream, Buck Creek narrows as it continues toward its confluence with South Fork White River. Along this long, narrow stretch of the creek (at least a mile in length) subalpine fir, Engelmann spruce, and Drummond's willow dominate the riparian area. At the confluence with South Fork White River is a historic record of the globally critically imperiled boreal toad (*Bufo boreas*). Upstream from this confluence, along the South Fork White River, is a long, wide, open grassland (*Festuca* sp.) on adjacent upland slopes. At higher elevations, the upland slopes are dominated by aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) and conifers. Booth willow (*Salix boothii*), wolf willow, and various herbaceous species occupy the riparian area. Soils at this site are not mapped by the county soil survey. The U.S. Forest Service in Glenwood Springs may have soil maps for this area. This site contains a long riparian area with fairly high cover of woody vegetation and herbaceous meadows and beaver ponds scattered throughout the area, thus the capacity of this wetland to perform flood attenuation and bank stabilization is likely high. The diversity of wetland habitats support populations of avian species and large and small mammals. Excellent vegetation structure along the creek provides shade and woody debris and thus good fish habitat.

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 01/04/2001

Designer Rocchio, F.J.

Boundary Justification

The boundary encompasses the floodplains and surrounding slopes to protect hydrological processes, along

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these portions of Buck Creek and the South Fork White River, from disturbances. These processes, such as flooding and natural sedimentation of beaver ponds and subsequent new channel formation, are necessary for the viability of the elements and the maintenance of ecological functions such as a dynamic distribution of aquatic and terrestrial habitat and nutrient cycling. The boundaries also protect the boreal toad site from direct disturbances such as trampling from livestock and/or recreation users.

Primary Area 2,131.34 Acres 862.53 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site supports an excellent (A-ranked) and good (B-ranked) occurrence of the globally vulnerable (G3/S3) wolf willow (*Salix wolfii*) / mesic forb subalpine riparian willow carr. This community has a widespread distribution but it is never abundant where it is found. Currently, there are only 20 documented locations of this community in the world but more are expected. There is also a good (B-ranked) occurrence of the Booth willow (*Salix boothii*) / mesic forb riparian willow carr. An excellent (A-ranked) occurrence of the common (G5/S4) subalpine fir - Engelmann spruce / Drummond's willow riparian forest is also found at this site. There are historical records of both the boreal toad (*Bufo boreas*) and Peregrine Falcon (*Falco Peregrinus anatum*). The boreal toad was last recorded from here in 1963, the peregrine in 1986. Neither of these species were located during this survey, attempts to access this area during the survey were unsuccessful.

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

Hydrological processes originating outside of the planning boundary, including water quality, quantity, and timing, must be managed to maintain population and community viability.

Information Needs

No Data

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> |
|-------------------------|--|--|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| 24572 | <i>Salix wolfii</i> / Mesic Forbs Shrubland | Subalpine Riparian Willow Carr | G3 | S3 | Yes |
| 24905 | <i>Abies lasiocarpa</i> / <i>Salix drummondiana</i> Forest | Montane Riparian Forest | G5 | S4 | No |
| 24734 | <i>Salix boothii</i> / Mesic Forbs Shrubland | Booth's Willow/Mesic Forb | G3 | S3 | Yes |
| 24572 | <i>Salix wolfii</i> / Mesic Forbs Shrubland | Subalpine Riparian Willow Carr | G3 | S3 | Yes |
| 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> |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| - | No Data |

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

| | |
|----------------|---------------|
| Version Date | 01/04/2001 |
| Version Author | Rocchio, F.J. |

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