

# Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Upper Elbert Creek

Site Code S.USCOHP\*24670

## IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 2078 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 373623N  
State Colorado Longitude 1075100W

Quad Code Quad Name  
37107-E7 Electra Lake

County  
La Plata (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name  
14080104 Animas

## SITE DESCRIPTION

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

### Site Description

Elbert Creek site is in a high elevation open meadow surrounding first and second order streams. The creek supports a short-stature willow carr in a narrow to wide thicket. Willow species include planeleaf willow (*Salix planifolia*) and wolf willow (*Salix wolfii*), where planeleaf willow dominates and is situated in the wetter areas. Mesic graminoids dominate in the stream channel and low, moist areas. Mesic graminoids are dominated by beaked sedge (*Carex utriculata*). A linear fringe of forbs cling to the stream bank. The creek is moderately sinuous with steep cut banks from one to three feet deep. Cattle have eroded the stream banks in some areas where upland meadows are moderately grazed. The surrounding hillslopes harbor a healthy spruce - fir forest with open hillsides of Thurber fescue (*Festuca thurberi*). There is a popular mountain biking trail adjacent Elbert Creek with relatively easy access from Forest Roads.

### 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 12/10/2003  
Designer March, M.A.

### Boundary Justification

The boundaries incorporate the headwaters and areas that will allow the natural hydrological processes to continue. Seasonal flooding and sediment deposition will help maintain the viability of the element along Elbert Creek. The boundaries also provide a small buffer from the nearby road, trails and around the willow carr where disturbance caused surface runoff may contribute excess nutrients, sediment and weed invasion. It should be noted that the hydrological processes necessary to the element are not fully contained by the boundaries.

Primary Area 276.46 Acres 111.88 Hectares

## SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

# Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Upper Elbert Creek

Site Code S.USCOHP\*24670

## Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site was drawn for a state rare (GNR/S2) *Salix planifolia* / *Carex utriculata* plant community that is in good (B-ranked) condition.

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

Non-native hay grasses are present, but not dense in meadows adjacent.

## 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>
24576	<i>Salix planifolia</i> / <i>Carex utriculata</i> Shrubland	Diamondleaf Willow / Beaked Sedge	GNR	S2	Yes

## REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
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 12/10/2003  
Version Author March, M.A.

## Disclaimer

# Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Upper Elbert Creek

Site Code S.USCOHP\*24670

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