

# Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Upper Hermosa Creek

Site Code S.USCOHP\*23607

## IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 807 Site Class PCA  
Site Alias Hermosa Creek

### Network of Conservation Areas (NCA)

<u>NCA Site ID</u>	<u>NCA Site Code</u>	<u>NCA Site Name</u>
2148	S.USCOHP*24990	Hermosa Creek

## LOCATORS

Nation United States Latitude 374025N  
State Colorado Longitude 1075541W

Quad Code Quad Name  
37107-F8 Hermosa Peak

County  
San Juan (CO)  
La Plata (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name  
14080104 Animas

## SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	8,900.00 Feet	2,713.00 Meters
Maximum Elevation	11,400.00 Feet	3,475.00 Meters

### Site Description

The Hermosa Creek site is located in a scenic, riparian corridor in southern San Juan County. The narrow valley floor is dominated by the Rico Mountains to the west and Graysill and Engineer Mountains to the east. Hermosa Creek's headwaters start at the boundary between Dolores County and San Juan County, near Bolam Pass. It is fed by several tributaries that include: Grassy, Corral, Petty, and Black and Petty Creek. The riparian corridor is dominated by blue spruce (*Picea pungens*) with alder (*Alnus incana*), Drummond's willow (*Salix drummondiana*), and Rocky Mountain willow (*Salix monticola*). The drier slopes are dominated by Engelmann spruce (*Picea engelmannii*). The Graysill Mine is located near the headwaters but is currently inactive and serves as a historic landmark.

### 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 12/17/2002  
Designer Culver, D.R.

### Boundary Justification

The boundary is drawn to include the Hermosa Creek floodplain from its headwaters near Bolam Pass to Hermosa Park. The boundaries incorporate an area that will allow natural hydrological processes such as seasonal flooding, sediment deposition, and new channel formation to maintain viable populations of the wetland. It should be noted that the hydrological processes necessary to the riparian elements are not fully contained by the site boundaries. Given that the elements are dependent on natural hydrological processes associated with Hermosa Creek, any upstream activities such as water diversions, impoundments, and mining development could potentially be detrimental to the wetland. This boundary indicates the minimum area that should be considered for any conservation management plan.

Primary Area 660.11 Acres 267.14 Hectares

## SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

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## Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site drawn for a good occurrence (B-ranked) of a globally vulnerable (G3/S3) montane riparian forest plant community (*Picea pungens*/*Alnus incana*).

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>
24518	<i>Picea pungens</i> / <i>Alnus incana</i> Woodland	Montane Riparian Forests	G3	S3	Yes

## REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
158301	Culver, D.R. and P. Lyon. 2002. Colorado Natural Heritage Program Field Survey to San Juan County.

## ADDITIONAL TOPICS

## Additional Topics

No Data

## VERSION

Version Date 12/17/2002  
Version Author Culver, D.R.

## Disclaimer

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