

# Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Upper Pole Creek

Site Code S.USCOHP\*25853

## IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 2278 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 395820N  
State Colorado Longitude 1055707W

Quad Code Quad Name  
39105-H8 Bottle Pass

County  
Grand (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name  
14010001 Colorado headwaters

## SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	8,835.00 Feet	2,692.91 Meters
Maximum Elevation	9,055.00 Feet	2,759.96 Meters

### Site Description

Occurrence inhabits a first order tributary of Pole Creek, along the upper reaches of Pole Creek. The drainage is free-flowing with a constricted floodplain that is seasonally flooded. Stream course is moderately sinuous and has a coarse material component of large rocks and wood. The drainage is dominated in the upper reaches by a tall shrub layer of thinleaf alder (*Alnus incana*) and Drummond's willow (*Salix drummondiana*). A sparse canopy is consistent along the drainage which is composed of Engelmann spruce (*Picea engelmannii*), blue spruce (*Picea pungens*), subalpine fir (*Abies lasiocarpa*), and lodgepole pine (*Pinus contorta*). These species are also present in the regeneration layer and could likely become a more dominant stratum in the future. There is a persistent herbaceous component that is dominated by forb species including common cowparsnip (*Heracelum maximum*), heartleaf bittercress (*Cardamine cordifolia*), and largeleaf avens (*Geum macrophyllum*). Adjacent surrounding uplands are dominated by weedy species such as Kentucky bluegrass (*Poa pratensis*) and smooth brome (*Bromus inermis*). Forested uplands consist of mature lodgepole pine forests with a quaking aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) component. Geology consists of sedimentary rocks of the Cretaceous Age, specifically Pierre Shale. Soils consist of sandy loams over sandy clays. Disturbances present include road which crosses the drainage in two places, a parking area for adjacent trails, and a pack trail along the drainage's upper, eastern side. Uplands immediately surrounding the stand are very weedy due to horse use and roads.

### Key Environmental Factors

Key environmental factors influencing the biota of the site include seasonal flooding, perennial surface flows, soils, and slope.

### Climate Description

Climate likely follows patterns typical of this area of Colorado being generally xeric throughout the year with wet spring seasons and late summer "monsoons".

### Land Use History

No Data

### Cultural Features

No Data

## SITE DESIGN

Site Map Y - Yes Mapped Date 12/10/2005  
Designer Jones, J.R.

### Boundary Justification

Boundaries include approximately one mile of the middle to upper reaches of Pole Creek and a southern tributary. Boundaries include adjacent buffered uplands and are drawn to encompass those ecological

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processes important to the maintenance of site hydrology and biota including perennial surface flows, and seasonal flooding. Boundaries do not include all ecological processes driving the site. Activities upstream and adjacent to the site such as development, road work, and water diversions may negatively impact biota and site hydrology.

Primary Area 100.23 Acres 40.56 Hectares

## SITE SIGNIFICANCE

**Biodiversity Significance Rank** B3: High Biodiversity Significance

### Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site is drawn for a good (B-ranked) occurrence of a globally vulnerable (G3/S3) community, thinleaf alder (*Alnus incana*) - Drummond's willow (*Salix drummondiana*).

**Other Values Rank** V3 - Moderate values

### Other Values Comments

This site provides moderate other values including recreational, aesthetic, and open space for the visitors of the YMCA camp. As well, the drainage provides wildlife habitat and is important as the headwaters of a major tributary of the Fraser River.

## LAND MANAGEMENT ISSUES

### Land Use Comments

Predominant land uses are for recreational activities including hiking, horseback riding, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing.

### Natural Hazard Comments

No Data

### Exotics Comments

Kentucky bluegrass (*Poa pratensis*) and smooth brome (*Bromus inermis*) are common and in some areas dominate in adjacent meadows.

### Offsite

Off-site considerations include lodgepole pine beetle epidemic, maintenance of road, water diversions downstream of site, and exotic species invasion and introduction from horse trails.

### 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>
24743	<i>Alnus incana</i> - <i>Salix drummondiana</i> Shrubland	Montane Riparian Shrubland	G3	S3	Yes

## REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
160903	Carsey, K., D. Cooper, K. Decker, D. Culver, and G. Kittel. 2003. Statewide wetlands classification and characterization: Wetland plant associations of Colorado. Prepared for Colorado Department of Natural Resources, Denver, CO by Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Fort Collins, CO.
193632	Culver, D.R. and Jones, J.R. 2006. Final Report: Survey of Critical Biological Resources in Grand County. Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Fort Collins, CO.
160140	Dorn, R. D. 1997. Rocky Mountain Region Willow Identification Field Guide. Renewable Resources R2-RR-97-01. Denver, CO: USDA, Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Region. 107p.
159048	Huckaby, L.S., and W.H. Moir. 1998. Forest communities at Fraser Experimental Forest, Colorado. The Southwestern Naturalist 43(2):204-218.
167224	Hurd, E.G., N.L. Shaw, J. Mastroguiseppe, L.C. Smithman, and S. Goodrich. 1998. Field Guide to Intermountain Sedges. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rocky Mountain Research Station, Ogden, UT.
192747	Tweto, O. 1979. Geologic Map of Colorado, 1:500,000. United States Geological Survey, Department of Interior, and Geologic Survey of Colorado, Denver, CO.
172684	Weber, W.A. and R.C. Wittmann. 2001. Colorado Flora: Western Slope, Third Edition. University Press of Colorado, Niwot, CO.

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## ADDITIONAL TOPICS

### Additional Topics

No Data

## VERSION

Version Date 12/10/2005

Version Author Jones, J.R.

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