

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Upper Williams Fork

Site Code S.USCOHP2*1575

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 1052 Site Class PCA
Site Alias Steelman Creek

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 394535N
State Colorado Longitude 1055508W

Quad Code Quad Name

39105-G8	Byers Peak
39105-F8	Loveland Pass
39106-F1	Dillon
39106-G1	Ute Peak

County

Grand (CO)

<u>Watershed Code</u>	<u>Watershed Name</u>
14010001	Colorado headwaters

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	8,900.00	Feet	2,712.72	Meters
Maximum Elevation	11,600.00	Feet	3,535.68	Meters

Site Description

Upper Williams Fork, South Fork of the Williams Fork, McQueary, Steelman, and Bobtail creeks all included as important high elevation riparian areas creating habitat for both the boreal toad and the Colorado Cutthroat Trout. The site is a Lodgepole pine, Englemann spruce, Sub-alpine fir forest within 20 meters of ponds. Dominate plant community: *Carex utriculata*, *Carex aquatilis*, *Calamagrostis canadensis*.

Key Environmental Factors

No Data

Climate Description

No Data

Land Use History

No Data

Cultural Features

No Data

SITE DESIGN

Site Map P - Partial Mapped Date 12/07/2005
Designer Gaughan, C.R.

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the upper Williams Fork, South Fork of the Williams Fork, McQuery, Steelman, and Bobtail creeks. A buffer of between 0.5 and 1 km is included on either side of the riparian areas. This should be adequate to protect the toads upland habitat and the streams from degradation by maintaining natural streamside vegetation and runoff.

Primary Area	9,289.22	Acres	3,759.23	Hectares
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SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

The site supports an excellent (A-ranked) occurrence of the globally vulnerable (G4T3/S3) Colorado River Cutthroat Trout (*Oncorhynchus clarkii pleuriticus*) and a fair (C-ranked) breeding occurrence of the globally critically imperiled (G4T1/S1) boreal toad (*Bufo boreas* pop. 1).

Other Values Rank No Data

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Other Values Comments

No Data

LAND MANAGEMENT ISSUES

Land Use Comments

Recreationists and researchers alike should decontaminate equipment between McQueary Creek and the Upper Williams Fork.

Natural Hazard Comments

No Data

Exotics Comments

Exotic species: red top (*Agrostis stolonifera*) and Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*).

Offsite

Maintaining natural hydrologic regime will require careful evaluation of activities within this watershed for impacts to the element.

Information Needs

Updated population information is needed for the trout.

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>
20351	<i>Bufo boreas</i> pop. 1	Boreal Toad (Southern Rocky Mountain Population)	G4T1Q	S1	Yes
21796	<i>Oncorhynchus clarkii pleuriticus</i>	Colorado River Cutthroat Trout	G4T3	S3	No
21796	<i>Oncorhynchus clarkii pleuriticus</i>	Colorado River Cutthroat Trout	G4T3	S3	No

REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
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.
193542	Doyle, G.A. 2005. Boreal toad survey of the Williams Fork River, Grand County.
193547	Livo, L. 2001. Procedures for Monitoring and Surveying Boreal Toad Populations. Colorado Division of Wildlife Powerpoint presentation.

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

Original site design by Grunau, T.L. 1995-02-17.

VERSION

Version Date 12/07/2005
Version Author Gaughan, C.R.

Disclaimer

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