

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Wagonwheel Creek

Site Code S.USCOHP*21718

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 556 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 394739N
State Colorado Longitude 1072125W

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 10,500.00 Feet 3,200.00 Meters
Maximum Elevation 10,600.00 Feet 3,231.00 Meters

Site Description

This site consists of a subalpine stream and adjacent spruce-fir (*Picea-Abies* sp.) covered slopes. Near the upstream portion of the site, there are numerous small ponds that serve as the headwaters of Wagonwheel Creek. Short-fruit willow (*Salix brachycarpa*), planeleaf willow (*S. planifolia*), tufted hairgrass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*), marsh marigold (*Caltha leptosepala*), and arrowleaf groundsel (*Senecio triangularis*) dominate the riparian area downstream from these ponds. Further downstream, there is a large wet meadow created by beaver activity where water sedge (*Carex aquatilis*) and beaked sedge (*C. utriculata*) dominate. Downstream from where a small spring-fed stream enters Wagonwheel Creek, is a willow carr dominated by Wolf willow (*Salix wolfii*), shrubby cinquefoil (*Pentaphylloides floribunda*), tufted hairgrass, water sedge, and alpine timothy (*Phleum alpinum*). 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 mosaic of willows and sedge meadows likely provides much in the way of flood attenuation and sediment/shoreline stabilization. Groundwater discharge is occurring via the numerous springs in the area. This wetland also likely provides excellent habitat for small and large mammals, avian species, and insects. Given the fairly intact nature of the area, nutrient cycles are assumed to be intact which also provides excellent production export.

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 01/15/2001
Designer Rocchio, F.J.

Boundary Justification

The boundary encompasses the riparian and wetland areas, surrounding slopes, and nearby/upstream springs and spring-brooks to ensure that hydrological sources and the ability of the creek's fluvial processes to continue flooding, scouring, and sediment deposition are protected. These processes are necessary for the viability of the elements and maintenance of ecological functions such as a dynamic distribution of aquatic and terrestrial habitat and nutrient cycling.

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Wagonwheel Creek

Site Code S.USCOHP*21718

Primary Area 1,325.47 Acres

536.40 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site supports a good (B-ranked) occurrence of the globally vulnerable (G3/S3) wolf willow/mesic forb (*Salix wolfii*/mesic forb) subalpine riparian willow carr. This community has a widespread distribution, although it is never very abundant where it occurs. The site also supports an excellent (A-ranked) occurrence of the common (G4/S4) water sedge/beaked sedge (*Carex aquatilis*/*Carex utriculata*) montane wet meadow and a good (B-ranked) occurrence of the common short-fruit willow/mesic forb (*Salix brachycarpa*/mesic forb) alpine willow scrub.

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> |
| 24572 | <i>Salix wolfii</i> / Mesic Forbs Shrubland | Subalpine Riparian Willow Carr | G3 | S3 | Yes |
| 24955 | <i>Carex aquatilis</i> - <i>Carex utriculata</i> Herbaceous Vegetation | Montane Wet Meadows | G4 | S4 | No |
| 24806 | <i>Salix brachycarpa</i> / Mesic Forbs Shrubland | Alpine Willow Scrub | G4 | S4 | No |

REFERENCES

| <u>Reference ID</u> | <u>Full Citation</u> |
|---------------------|--|
| 160919 | Lyon, P. 2000. Colorado Natural Heritage Program Biological Assessment of Garfield County. |
| 160810 | Rocchio, J. 2000. Colorado Natural Heritage Program Wetland Inventory/Assessment of Garfield County. |

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date 01/15/2001
Version Author Rocchio, F.J.

Disclaimer

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Wagonwheel Creek

Site Code S.USCOHP*21718

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