

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Williams Hill

Site Code S.USCOHP*10084

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 1420 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 391803N
State Colorado Longitude 1065711W

<u>Quad Code</u>	<u>Quad Name</u>
39106-C8	Woody Creek
39107-C1	Basalt

County

<u>Watershed Code</u>	<u>Watershed Name</u>
14010004	Roaring Fork

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	6,900.00 Feet	2,103.12 Meters
Maximum Elevation	8,800.00 Feet	2,682.24 Meters

Site Description

Williams Hill gains 1800 feet in approximately 0.5 mile as it rises from the south bank of the Roaring Fork River. This north-facing slope is dominated by dense Gambel's oak (*Quercus gambelii*) and mountain mahogany (*Cercocarpus montanus*) with an elk sedge (*Carex geyeri*) understory. The south-facing slope is a gentle slope down to Snowmass Creek. The soils are sandstone derived and support pinon - juniper (*Pinus edulis* - *Juniperus osteosperma*), Gambel's oak (*Quercus gambelii*), and mountain sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata* ssp. *vaseyana*) communities. The sagebrush community provides important habitat for a globally rare penstemon species. Native grasses such as needle-and-threadgrass (*Hesperostipa comata*), Indian ricegrass (*Oryzopsis hymenoides*) and elk sedge are present in the herbaceous layer of these communities. However, exotic species such as Kentucky blue-grass (*Poa pratensis*) and cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*) are dominant in some areas. In addition, Williams Hill supports a large herd of wintering elk and provides critical winter habitat for this herd. A total of 2,500 acres are included in the site boundaries, in an elevation range of about 6,900 to 8,800 feet.

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 08/13/1997
Designer Fayette, K.K.

Boundary Justification

This site includes the two element occurrences and the surrounding high-quality habitat. The surrounding habitat is intended to protect the occurrences from direct disturbances, such as trampling. Indirect disturbances, such as unnatural erosion from upslope activities or the establishment of exotic species should also be avoided within this boundary.

Primary Area 4,418.77 Acres 1,788.22 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

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Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site includes a good (B-ranked) occurrence of a globally vulnerable plant species and a globally vulnerable plant community. *Penstemon harringtonii* is a globally vulnerable plant species (G3/S3) which is restricted to Colorado and is found almost exclusively in sagebrush habitat. This species is only known from approximately 37 locations, all of which are centered around Edwards in Eagle County. In general, Harrington's beardtongue and its habitat are highly threatened by residential, agricultural, and recreational development. These threats, in addition to its restricted range, create an urgency for protection. Harrington's beardtongue populations are known to fluctuate in population numbers from year to year. Therefore, this specific location may be a higher priority than the current information reflects. This site includes a small occurrence of Harrington's beardtongue. The globally vulnerable (G3/S3) Gambel's oak (*Quercus gambelii* / *Carex geyeri*) community is in good condition and increases the biodiversity value of this site. Williams Hill, Light Hill, and The Crown stand out as three of the best large areas of plant communities still intact in the lower elevation of Roaring Fork Watershed.

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

Poa pratensis, *Cirsium arvense*, *Bromus tectorum* are present and are spreading from the road into the surrounding vegetation.

Offsite

No Data

Information Needs

No Data

ASSOCIATED ELEMENTS OF BIODIVERSITY

<u>Element</u>			<u>Global Rank</u>	<u>State Rank</u>	<u>Driving Site Rank</u>
<u>State ID</u>	<u>State Scientific Name</u>	<u>State Common Name</u>			
19662	<i>Penstemon harringtonii</i>	Harrington beardtongue	G3	S3	Yes
24685	<i>Quercus gambelii</i> - <i>Cercocarpus montanus</i> / (<i>Carex geyeri</i>) Shrubland	Mixed Mountain Shrublands	G3	S3	No
24685	<i>Quercus gambelii</i> - <i>Cercocarpus montanus</i> / (<i>Carex geyeri</i>) Shrubland	Mixed Mountain Shrublands	G3	S3	No
24685	<i>Quercus gambelii</i> - <i>Cercocarpus montanus</i> / (<i>Carex geyeri</i>) Shrubland	Mixed Mountain Shrublands	G3	S3	No

REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
-	No Data

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date	05/05/1999
Version Author	Spackman, S.C.

Disclaimer

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