

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Woody Creek at Horseshoe Draw

Site Code S.USCOHP*16225

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 1741 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 391446N
State Colorado Longitude 1064822W

Quad Code Quad Name

39106-B7 Aspen
39106-C7 Ruedi Reservoir

County

Pitkin (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name

14010004 Roaring Fork

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	8,000.00 Feet	2,438.40 Meters
Maximum Elevation	8,400.00 Feet	2,560.32 Meters

Site Description

Woody Creek flows west into the Roaring Fork River roughly seven miles downstream of Aspen. The site includes approximately a 2 mile stretch of Woody Creek, between 8,000 and 8,400 feet. This stretch of Woody Creek is in a fairly narrow V-shaped valley with deep reddish soils. The riparian vegetation includes a discontinuous riparian community dominated by narrowleaf cottonwood and blue spruce with alder in the understory (*Populus angustifolia* - *Picea pungens* / *Alnus incana*). The understory in the riparian areas is diverse with honeysuckle (*Lonicera involucrata*), dogwood (*Cornus sericea*), mountain lover (*Paxistima myrsinites*), gooseberry (*Ribes inerme*), and mountain maple (*Acer glabrum*). The site also includes a globally secure community dominated by spruce - fir (*Picea engelmannii* - *Abies lasiocarpa*) and alder (*Alnus incana*). On the north bank, a two lane road follows the river. On the south bank, the riparian vegetation is confined to a narrow canyon with steep walls although the valley bottom is moderately wide. The adjacent upland areas support spruce - fir (*Picea engelmannii* - *Abies lasiocarpa*) communities on the north-facing slopes and globally vulnerable shrublands dominated by oak (*Quercus gambelii*) and serviceberry (*Amelancier utahensis*) on the south-facing slopes. These shrublands also supports snowberry (*Symphoricarpos rotundifolius*) and a mix of other shrubs in low cover. Several small drainages including Horseshoe Draw, Casaday Creek, and Sawmill Creek bisect the oak occurrence and are dominated by aspen (*Populus tremuloides*), blue spruce (*Picea pungens*) and Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga mensiesii*). Further downstream a Drummond's willow (*Salix drummondiana*) willow carr was documented. This area is flooded, probably by beaver.

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 05/03/1999
Designer Spackman, S.C.

Boundary Justification

The boundary is drawn to include the three occurrences and adjacent potential habitat up and down stream to allow the communities to move into suitable habitat over time. The adjacent steep slopes that would most

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Woody Creek at Horseshoe Draw

Site Code S.USCOHP*16225

likely impact occurrences if altered are also included. This area is intended to act as a buffer for the occurrences and protect them from direct disturbances. The full drainage is not included. Hydrological processes originating outside the planning boundary, including water quality, quantity, and timing should be managed to maintain viability. Narrowleaf cottonwoods require periodic, above average, floods usually in June for seed germination and survival. Therefore, it is important to maintain a natural flooding regime.

Primary Area 3,463.60 Acres 1,401.68 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site supports a good (B-ranked) example of a globally vulnerable (G3/S3) *Populus angustifolia* - *Picea pungens* / *Alnus incana* riparian plant community and a good (B-ranked) example of an oak - serviceberry (*Quercus gambelii* - *Amelanchier utahensis*) community, which is globally vulnerable to globally secure (G3G5/SU).

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>
24684	<i>Abies lasiocarpa</i> / <i>Alnus incana</i> Forest	Montane Riparian Forests	G5	S5	No
24823	<i>Populus angustifolia</i> - <i>Picea pungens</i> / <i>Alnus incana</i> Woodland	Montane Riparian Forests	G3	S3	Yes
24684	<i>Abies lasiocarpa</i> / <i>Alnus incana</i> Forest	Montane Riparian Forests	G5	S5	No
24702	<i>Quercus gambelii</i> / <i>Amelanchier utahensis</i> Shrubland	Mixed Mountain Shrubland	G3G5	SU	No
24684	<i>Abies lasiocarpa</i> / <i>Alnus incana</i> Forest	Montane Riparian Forests	G5	S5	No

REFERENCES

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

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date	05/03/1999
Version Author	Spackman, S.C.

Disclaimer

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Woody Creek at Horseshoe Draw

Site Code S.USCOHP*16225

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