

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Bear Creek at South Platte Canyon

Site Code S.USCOHP*6110

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 448 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>
1666	S.USCOHP1*1992	South Platte Canyon

County

Douglas (CO)
Jefferson (CO)

SITE DESCRIPTION

Site Description

This is a beautiful low-elevation riparian community in a narrow, somewhat steep canyon with an undesignated trail (not shown on any maps) running down it. The entire canyon has very pristine upslopes as well as healthy riparian communities. The area is definitely worthy of protection in some way. The riparian community surveyed is primarily dominated by *Alnus incana* and *Salix bebbiana* with a rich native graminoid and forb undergrowth layer. There are stands of *Alnus incana* upstream as well. These stands are mixed with several *Salix* species with *Acer glabrum* in some places. The upslope to the west is a beautiful community of big, old *Pseudotsuga menziesii* with *Carex geyeri* in the undergrowth. On the east upslopes *Pinus ponderosa* and *Pseudotsuga menziesii* occur with a sparse understory. These occur on fairly steep slopes. Currently the area appears to get moderate use as there are some fire rings and trash along the trail. The Colorado Trail crosses Bear Creek downstream about 1-2 miles from this site.

Key Environmental Factors

The steep stream gradient and un-altered hydrology of this first-order stream allows natural flows and flooding disturbance. The narrow character of the canyon probably excludes heavy livestock use.

Climate Description

No Data

Land Use History

No Data

Cultural Features

No Data

Minimum Elevation	-	Feet	-	Meters
Maximum Elevation	-	Feet	-	Meters

SITE DESIGN

Site Map P - Partial Mapped Date 11/08/1996

Designer Kittel, G.M. and E. VanWie

Boundary Justification

This boundary encompasses the habitats of the foothill interface with the plains environment. It includes all the known occurrences as well as a buffer that includes the locally continuous habitat of the riparian corridor. Activities within this boundary have potential to directly impact this imperiled plant association by directly altering the hydrologic regime, fragmenting the occurrence, or disrupting natural geomorphic processes.

Primary Area 1,243.69 Acres 503.30 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B2: Very High Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site contains an excellent (A-ranked) occurrence of a community which is vulnerable on a global scale. The unfragmented occurrence is the best known example of this vulnerable (G3/S3) *Alnus incana* / mesic forb community on the eastern slope, thus merits the B2 rank. The herbaceous layer is completely intact with very few non-native species and represents a fine example of a foothills riparian ecosystem.

Other Values Rank No Data

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Other Values Comments

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>			
24645	<i>Alnus incana</i> / Mesic Forbs Wet Shrubland	Thinleaf Alder/Mesic Forb Riparian Shrubland	G3	S3	Y

LAND MANAGEMENT ISSUES

Land Use Comments

Currently there is a little-used, unofficial trail down the canyon used by horsepackers and mountain bikers.

Natural Hazard Comments

No Data

Exotics Comments

A little bit of *Taraxacum officinale* and *Poa pratensis* is present.

Offsite

A private residence occurs at the headwaters; this creek feeds into the S. Platte R. in Waterton Canyon.

Information Needs

History of land use within immediate watershed.

REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
170776	McMullen, Amy and Erika VanWie. 1996. Field survey of riparian vegetation of the Upper South Platte Watershed.

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

LOCATORS

Nation	United States	Latitude	392426N
State	Colorado	Longitude	1050712W
<u>Quad Code</u>	<u>Quad Name</u>		
39105-D1	Kassler		
39105-D2	Platte Canyon		
<u>Watershed Code</u>	<u>Watershed Name</u>		
10190002	Upper South Platte		

VERSION

Version Date	11/08/1996
Version Author	Kittel, G.M. and E. VanWie

DISCLAIMER

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