

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Turkey Creek at South Platte Canyon

Site Code S.USCOHP*6164

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 280 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)

SITE DESCRIPTION

Site Description

This site is a narrow riparian area in a very narrow canyon with large boulders in the relatively small, first-order stream. The riparian canopy is dense with *Picea pungens* and *Betula occidentalis* in the understory. The undergrowth is diverse with many *Carex* and forb species. The upland to the NE is a *Pinus ponderosa*, *Picea pungens*, and *Pseudotsuga menziesii* community. Upslopes to the SW are dominated by *Picea pungens* and *Pseudotsuga menziesii*. There is no road or trail into the area and consequently no signs of degradation to the occurrence. A small amount of *Taraxacum officinale* was found in the 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 362.94 Acres 146.88 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site contains a small, near pristine (A-ranked) occurrence of the imperiled (G3/S3) *Picea pungens* / *Alnus incana* community. The herbaceous layer is completely intact with very few non-native species. It all represents a fine example of a foothills riparian ecosystem.

Other Values Rank No Data

Other Values Comments

This site occurs within the South Platte Canyon megasite, known for its excellent habitat for Peregrine Falcon (G4T4S2B), the Pawnee Montane Skipper (G4T1 S1?), Lavender Hyssop (G4G5 S1) and Peck sedge (G4G5 S1?)

ASSOCIATED ELEMENTS OF BIODIVERSITY

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<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>			
24518	<i>Picea pungens</i> / <i>Alnus incana</i> Riparian Woodland	Montane Riparian Forests	G3	S3	Y

LAND MANAGEMENT ISSUES

Land Use Comments

No trail or road directly to site.

Natural Hazard Comments

none observed.

Exotics Comments

Very low abundance of *Taraxacum officinale*.

Offsite

A road and campground occur upstream. Beaver management encouraged.

Information Needs

Current USFS management plans.

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

<u>Nation</u>	United States	<u>Latitude</u>	390815N
<u>State</u>	Colorado	<u>Longitude</u>	1051431W
<u>Quad Code</u>	<u>Quad Name</u>		
39105-B2	Westcreek		
<u>Watershed Code</u>	<u>Watershed Name</u>		
10190002	Upper South Platte		

VERSION

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

DISCLAIMER

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