Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Saint Louis Creek at Fraser **Site Code** S.USCOHP*25979

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 2327 **Site Class** PCA

Site Alias None

Network of Conservation Areas (NCA)

NCA Site ID	NCA Site Code	NCA Site Name
-		No Data

County

Grand (CO)

SITE DESCRIPTION

Site Description

Community inhabits open meadows along lower St. Louis Creek near the town of Fraser. Community is typical of Wolf's willow (*Salix wolfii*) associations forming a dense, consistent thicket of short shrubs interspersed with herbaceous meadows. Graminoid species are dispersed evenly throughout with water sedge (*Carex aquatilis*) being the most common. There are also patches of beaked sedge (*Carex utriculata*) and bluejoint reedgrass (*Calamgrostis canadensis*) present. Forbs are scattered throughout, but do not dominate. There is a tall shrub component encroaching from the surrounding community of Geyer's willow (*Salix geyeriana*). Surrounding uplands that are not developed are dominated by xeric lodgepole pine (*Pinus contorta*) forests. The main drainage of St. Louis Creek supports a large Geyer's willow carr upstream of this area. Soils are saturated to mesic throughout and highly variable. Some areas have very high organic content in the A horizon, while other areas have pockets of sandy soils and mineral mottling. Geology consists of unconsolidated surficial deposits and rocks of the Quaternary Age, specifically gravels and alluviums. Site is surrounded on two sides by local county roads that may impact hydrology and may in the future encourage weedy species invasion. Currently the occurrence appears to have intact hydrology dependent on rainfall and lateral groundwater flows with very few weedy species. There are very few anthropogenic disturbances within the community.

Key Environmental Factors

Key environmental factors contributing to the biota of the site include seasonal soil saturation, slope, and substrate.

Climate Description

Climate likely follows patterns typical of this region of Colorado, being generally xeric throughout the year, with wet spring seasons and late summer "monsoons".

Land Use History

No Data

Cultural Features

No Data

Minimum Elevation	8,575.00	**Feet**	2,613.66	**Meters**
Maximum Elevation	8,600.00	**Feet**	2,621.28	**Meters**

SITE DESIGN

Site Map Y - Yes **Mapped Date** 01/07/2006

Designer Jones, J.R.

Boundary Justification

Boundaries include shrublands along the northwestern edge of lower St. Louis Creek near the town of Fraser and are drawn to encompass those ecological processes necessary to maintain site hydrology including seasonal flooding and soil saturation, sediment deposition, and aquifer recharge and discharge. Boundaries do not include all ecological processes influencing the site. Activities upstream and along adjacent slopes such as improper grazing, water diversion, and development may impact site hydrology and biota.

Primary Area	60.65	**Acres**	24.54	**Hectares**

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B4: Moderate Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site is drawn for a good (B-ranked) occurrence of the globally apparently secure (G4/S3) plant

community, Wolf's willow (*Salix wolfii*) / water sedge (*Carex aquatilis*) riparian willow carr.

Other Values Rank V3 - Moderate values

Other Values Comments

This site provides moderate other values including aesthetics and important open space and wildlife habitat for the town of Fraser.

ASSOCIATED ELEMENTS OF BIODIVERSITY

Element State ID	State Scientific Name	State Common Name	Global Rank	State Rank	Driving Site Rank
24666	*Salix wolfii / Carex aquatilis* Wet Shrubland	Subalpine Riparian Willow Carr	G4	S3	Y

LAND MANAGMENT ISSUES

Land Use Comments

Currently the land is open space and is not used by the owner.

Natural Hazard Comments

No Data

Exotics Comments

Kentucky bluegrass (*Poa pratensis*), common dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*), and curly dock (*Rumex crispus*) are all found, but are not dominant or common in many areas. Disturbed areas along edges and roads support many more weedy species than the occurrence. Virginia strawberry (*Fragaria virginiana*) is common and may be indicative of past land disturbance.

Offsite

Off-site considerations include roads, development, and proximity to the town of Fraser.

Information Needs

No Data

REFERENCES

Reference ID	Full Citation
160903	Carsey, K., D. Cooper, K. Decker, D. Culver, and G. Kittel. 2003. Statewide wetlands classification and characterization: Wetland plant associations of Colorado. Prepared for Colorado Department of Natural Resources, Denver, CO by Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Fort Collins, CO.
193632	Culver, D.R. and Jones, J.R. 2006. Final Report: Survey of Critical Biological Resources in Grand County. Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Fort Collins, CO.
160140	Dorn, R. D. 1997. Rocky Mountain Region Willow Identification Field Guide. Renewable Resources R2-RR-97-01. Denver, CO: USDA, Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Region. 107p.
167224	Hurd, E.G., N.L. Shaw, J. Mastroguiseppe, L.C. Smithman, and S. Goodrich. 1998. Field Guide to Intermountain Sedges. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rocky Mountain Research Station, Ogden, UT.
192747	Tweto, O. 1979. Geologic Map of Colorado, 1:500,000. United States Geological Survey, Department of Interior, and Geologic Survey of Colorado, Denver, CO.
193553	USDA, NRCS. 2005. The PLANTS Database, Version 3.5 (http://plants.usda.gov). Data compiled from various sources by Mark W. Skinner. National Plant Data Center <http://npdc.usda.gov/>, Baton Rouge, LA 70874-4490 USA. Accessed 2005.
172684	Weber, W.A. and R.C. Wittmann. 2001. Colorado Flora: Western Slope, Third Edition. University Press of Colorado, Niwot, CO.

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

LOCATORS

Nation United States **Latitude** 395659N

State Colorado **Longitude** 1054937W

Quad Code **Quad Name**

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Saint Louis Creek at Fraser **Site Code** S.USCOHP*25979

39105-H7 Fraser

Watershed Code	Watershed Name
14010001	Colorado headwaters

VERSION

Version Date 01/07/2006

Version Author Jones, J.R.

DISCLAIMER

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