

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Arkansas River at Nepesta

Site Code S.USCOHP*22032

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 1181 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 381149N
State Colorado Longitude 1041138W

Quad Code Quad Name

38104-B2 Nepesta

County

Pueblo (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name

11020005 Upper Arkansas-Lake Meredith

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	4,360.00	Feet	1,329.00	Meters
Maximum Elevation	4,460.00	Feet	1,359.00	Meters

Site Description

This site contains two good examples of cattail wetlands (*Typha angustifolia*-*Typha latifolia*) within meander bends of the Arkansas River. One is located on the north bank of the river near the mouth of Kramer Creek at Nepesta. The other is located about three miles upstream on the south bank of the river. The cattail marsh near Nepesta is the larger of the two covering about 150 acres (61 ha). Typical of a cattail stand, the vegetation within the stand is very homogeneous. The uplands north of the stand are greasewood shrublands intermixed with shortgrass prairie. Mosquitofish (*Gambusia affinis*) were introduced to the marsh in an attempt to control mosquito larvae (J. Dillon, pers. comm., landowner). Mosquitofish are native to southeastern U.S. and have been introduced worldwide. Almost everywhere introductions have been made, mosquitofish have gradually eliminated or reduced populations of small native fishes (Minkley and Deacon 1968). The other cattail marsh occupies about 70 acres (28 ha). It has been drained via pumping of wells in the past to allow haying of the cattails. The pumps have been inactivated due to water agreements with Kansas concerning flow in the Arkansas River. The cattail stand has small patches of bulrush (*Scirpus acutus*) within and a few scattered peach-leaf willow (*Salix amygdaloides*). Birds including Green Heron and Great Blue Heron were observed perching in the trees. Northern leopard frogs (*Rana pipiens*) were also observed in the wetland. The uplands are rolling hills of shortgrass prairie with rabbitbrush (*Chrysothamnus nauseosus*), cholla (*Cylindropuntia imbricata*), and scattered sand sage (*Artemisia filifolia*).

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 06/15/2001
Designer Doyle, G.A.

Boundary Justification

The boundary encompasses the wetland and a small amount of the surrounding uplands. The groundwater recharge areas for the wetlands are not encompassed within the site. Recharge areas probably include the entire Arkansas River drainage and the adjacent uplands draining toward the Arkansas River.

Primary Area 830.27 Acres 336.00 Hectares

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SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B5: General Biodiversity Interest

Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site contains a good (B-ranked) occurrence of a globally common (G5/S4) cattail wetland (*Typha angustifolia* - *Typha latifolia*). These cattail marshes are unusually large.

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 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>			
24687	<i>Typha (latifolia, angustifolia)</i> Western Herbaceous Vegetation	Narrow-leaf Cattail Marsh	G5	S4	Yes
24687	<i>Typha (latifolia, angustifolia)</i> Western Herbaceous Vegetation	Narrow-leaf Cattail Marsh	G5	S4	No

REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
169085	Doyle, G.A. 2000. Colorado Natural Heritage Program Field Survey of Wetland and Riparian Areas in Pueblo and El Paso Counties.
162855	Doyle, G.A., J. Gionfriddo, D. Anderson, and D. Culver. 2000. Final Report: Survey of Critical Wetlands and Riparian Areas in El Paso and Pueblo Counties, Colorado. Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Fort Collins, CO.

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date 09/15/2003
Version Author Spackman, S.C.

Disclaimer

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