

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Big Bucktail Creek

Site Code S.USCOHP*21024

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 47 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 381820N
State Colorado Longitude 1082628W

Quad Code Quad Name
38108-C4 Big Bucktail Creek

County
Montrose (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name
14030003 San Miguel

SITE DESCRIPTION

| | | |
|-------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Minimum Elevation | 6,000.00 Feet | 1,829.00 Meters |
| Maximum Elevation | 6,800.00 Feet | 2,073.00 Meters |

Site Description

Big Bucktail Creek is a tributary of the San Miguel River running south from the Uncompahgre Plateau. The creek cuts through Jurassic sandstones and shales of the Morrison, Summerville and Entrada formations. This site was surveyed by CNHP in 1997 and was found to sustain several high quality riparian plant communities dominated by skunkbrush and Gambel's oak, although there is little surface water in the area in mid-summer. The narrowly confined canyon has a cobble-boulder channel, with sediment between the boulders. Skunkbrush lines the edge of the channel, giving way to oak on the higher banks. Other common plant species in this dense shrub community are Utah serviceberry, Wood's rose, and thinleaf alder.

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 03/13/2000

Designer Lyon, M.J. and J.R. Sovell

Boundary Justification

The boundary is drawn to include several high quality examples of riparian plant communities, as well as some of the uplands that may affect these communities. Other similar tributaries of the San Miguel River contribute to the quality of the river, and should be considered significant for that reason. Although a nesting location of the Gray Vireo is within the site, the boundary does not take in the entire area that is used by the bird.

Primary Area 412.34 Acres 166.87 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B2: Very High Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

Most significant, is an excellent (A-ranked) occurrence of a skunkbrush (*Rhus trilobata*) riparian shrubland community which is globally imperiled (G2/S2). There is also an excellent (A-ranked) occurrence of the narrowleaf cottonwood / skunkbrush community (*Populus angustifolia* / *Rhus trilobata*). This community is

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considered vulnerable both globally and in Colorado (G3/S3). An occurrence of a Gray Vireo has been documented, but the site was not drawn for this species.

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 State ID</u> | <u>State Scientific Name</u> | <u>State Common Name</u> | <u>Global Rank</u> | <u>State Rank</u> | <u>Driving Site Rank</u> |
|-------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| 16839 | <i>Rhus trilobata</i> Shrubland | Skunkbrush Riparian Shrubland | G2 | S2 | No |
| 24619 | <i>Populus angustifolia</i> / <i>Rhus trilobata</i> Woodland | Narrowleaf Cottonwood/Skunkbrush | G3 | S3 | No |
| 24619 | <i>Populus angustifolia</i> / <i>Rhus trilobata</i> Woodland | Narrowleaf Cottonwood/Skunkbrush | G3 | S3 | No |
| 16839 | <i>Rhus trilobata</i> Shrubland | Skunkbrush Riparian Shrubland | G2 | S2 | Yes |

REFERENCES

| <u>Reference ID</u> | <u>Full Citation</u> |
|---------------------|--|
| 165028 | Stephens, T. and J. Zoerner. 1997. Colorado Natural Heritage Program Field Surveys for the San Miguel River and Tributaries Mapping Project. |

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

Original site design by Stephens and Zoerner, 1997.

VERSION

| | |
|----------------|----------------------------|
| Version Date | 03/13/2000 |
| Version Author | Lyon, M.J. and J.R. Sovell |

Disclaimer

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