

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Blacktail Creek at Gore Pass

Site Code S.USCOHP*25978

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 2326 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 400353N
State Colorado Longitude 1063455W

Quad Code Quad Name

40106-A5 Gore Pass

County

Grand (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name

14010001 Colorado headwaters

SITE DESCRIPTION

| | | |
|-------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Minimum Elevation | 8,020.00 Feet | 2,444.50 Meters |
| Maximum Elevation | 9,065.00 Feet | 2,763.01 Meters |

Site Description

Community inhabits Blacktail Creek, a second order tributary of the Colorado River. A road transects the stand where there is some disturbance from increased use and fragmentation. About 25 acres of drainage along this section are dominated by the tall shrub Booth's willow (*Salix boothii*) and the short shrub Wolf's willow (*Salix wolfii*). Other shrub species present include Drummond's willow (*Salix drummondiana*), diamondleaf willow (*Salix planifolia*), and shrubby cinquefoil (*Dasiphora floribunda*). South of road, the drainage bottom is inundated throughout with many active beaver dams producing a series of ponds. Livestock grazing has been decreased since the previous CNHP visit and there is little evidence of grazing in the past few years. The understory is dominated by mesic graminoids with beaked sedge (*Carex utriculata*) dominating inundated areas around the creek and beaver ponds, and water sedge (*Carex aquatilis*) and bluejoint reedgrass (*Calamagrostis canadensis*) consistently dispersed throughout mesic to saturated areas. Forbs occur in moderate cover and are common along mesic and drying areas throughout. Stand provides good wildlife habitat for fish, beaver, and marmot. Geology consists of sedimentary rocks of the Jurassic Age, specifically the Morrison Formation and igneous rocks of the Precambrian Age. Soils are sandy loams to sands along the creek and ponds with some collection of organic matter along backwater sloughs.

Key Environmental Factors

Key environmental factors contributing to the hydrology and biota of the site include perennial surface flows, seasonal flooding, beaver activity, sediment deposition, and slope shape.

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

SITE DESIGN

Site Map Y - Yes Mapped Date 12/29/2005
Designer Jones, J.R.

Boundary Justification

Boundaries include approximately 30 acres of upper Blacktail Creek and some buffered upland areas and are drawn to encompass those ecological processes necessary to maintain site hydrology including perennial surface flows, spring flooding, sediment deposition, and beaver activity. However, boundaries do not include all ecological processes influencing the site. Activities upstream and along adjacent slopes such as improper

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grazing, water diversion, and development may impact site hydrology and biota.

Primary Area 228.58 Acres 92.50 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site is drawn for a good (B-ranked) occurrence of the globally vulnerable (G3/S3) plant community, Booth's willow (*Salix boothii*) / mesic forbs riparian willow carr.

Other Values Rank V3 - Moderate values

Other Values Comments

The site provides moderate other values including open space and recreational values. As well, it is an important perennial habitat and water for local wildlife.

LAND MANAGEMENT ISSUES

Land Use Comments

Predominant land uses at this time are recreational activities including camping, hiking, fishing, and hunting. As well, the area may be used for livestock grazing and as a source for timber.

Natural Hazard Comments

Spring flooding may produce high flows and dangerous conditions along the creek.

Exotics Comments

Exotic species are present along the drier edges, but are not common within the saturated and inundated areas within the community. Common dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*) is the most common exotic present.

Offsite

Off-site considerations include logging, water diversion, adjacent road, and campground.

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> |
|-------------------------|--|---------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| 24734 | <i>Salix boothii</i> / Mesic Forbs Shrubland | Booth's Willow/Mesic Forb | G3 | S3 | Yes |

REFERENCES

| <u>Reference ID</u> | <u>Full Citation</u> |
|---------------------|---|
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| 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. |
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| 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. |
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ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

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VERSION

Version Date 12/29/2005

Version Author Jones, J.R.

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