

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Chandler Creek

Site Code S.USCOHP*25895

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 2293 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 382124N
State Colorado Longitude 1051504W

Quad Code Quad Name

38105-C3 Curley Peak
38105-C2 Rockvale

County

Fremont (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name

11020002 Upper Arkansas

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	6,020.00 Feet	1,834.90 Meters
Maximum Elevation	7,881.00 Feet	2,402.13 Meters

Site Description

Chandler Creek is a relatively dry, intermittent stream in an east-facing, moderate-gradient drainage emerging from the northern Wet Mountains. Vegetation within the riparian corridor is relatively diverse for such dry conditions. There are patches of mixed evergreen-deciduous riparian woodland discontinuously along the reach. Between these patches are diverse shrublands interspersed with open meadows. The riparian woodland is variable with evergreen areas dominated by Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) along the midreach and mixed canopy areas elsewhere. Additional canopy species that occur within the drainage are narrowleaf cottonwood (*Populus angustifolia*), plains cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*), netleaf hackberry (*Celtis laevigata*) and white fir (*Abies concolor*). The shrub layer has patchy dominance, with some areas having dense groves of river birch (*Betula occidentalis*) as well as mixed areas with Rocky Mountain maple (*Acer glabrum*), thinleaf alder (*Alnus incana*), Rocky Mountain juniper (*Juniperus scopulorum*), and bluestem willow (*Salix irrorata*). The herbaceous understory is spotty with patches of mesic herbs interspersed with areas dominated by dry upland species. The riparian corridor is surrounded by extensive, intact uplands that are rocky and sparsely vegetated with Gambel oak (*Quercus gambelii*), ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*), pinon pine (*Pinus edulis*), and one-seed juniper (*Juniperus monosperma*). Thickets of Gambel oak extend down into the floodplain in some areas. Protected pockets of north-facing slopes are dominated by Douglas-fir forest. There is evidence of historic grazing and logging within the reach; streambanks are intact but deepened in places by erosion and there are large stumps scattered within the drainage.

Key Environmental Factors

Lower montane elevations; ephemeral to intermittent flow; low to moderate gradient.

Climate Description

No Data

Land Use History

No Data

Cultural Features

No Data

SITE DESIGN

Site Map Y - Yes Mapped Date 01/13/2006
Designer Neid, S.L.

Boundary Justification

Boundary is drawn along adjacent ridgelines immediately above the drainage to 1 km above the element occurrence.

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Primary Area 546.53 Acres 221.18 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site encompasses a good (B-ranked) occurrence of a globally vulnerable (G3?/S3) riparian natural community, Douglas-fir / river birch (*Pseudotsuga menziesii* / *Betula occidentalis*) woodland.

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</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Driving</u>
<u>State ID</u>	<u>State Scientific Name</u>	<u>State Common Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Site Rank</u>
24962	<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i> / <i>Betula occidentalis</i> Woodland	Montane Riparian Forest	G3?	S3	Yes

REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
193618	Neid, S.L. 2006. Final Report: Survey of Critical Wetlands and Riparian Areas in Fremont County, Colorado. Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Fort Collins, CO.

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date 01/13/2006
Version Author Neid, S.L.

Disclaimer

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