

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Cimarron River at High Plains

Site Code S.USCOHP*16577

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 1135 Site Class PCA
 Site Alias Cimarron River

Network of Conservation Areas (NCA)

<u>NCA Site ID</u>	<u>NCA Site Code</u>	<u>NCA Site Name</u>
-		No Data

County

Baca (CO)
 Morton (KS)

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	3,495.00 Feet	1,065.28 Meters
Maximum Elevation	3,680.00 Feet	1,121.66 Meters

Site Description

The Cimarron River is a broad, sandy, braided ephemeral stream that does not flow all year, nor every year. It is nested in the High Plains between low rolling hills and occasional bluffs. On the National Forest Service Grassland in Kansas, the grasses are tall and dominated by sand-loving and alkali-tolerant native species on the floodplain under an open canopy of plains cottonwoods. Mid-grass prairie species occur on the uplands. A meandering line of green cottonwoods mark the path of the river across the plains landscape. Many cottonwoods probably became established after a dramatic 1917 flood which wiped out ranches in the floodplain and killed several people.

Key Environmental Factors

No Data

Climate Description

No Data

Land Use History

No Data

Cultural Features

No Data

SITE DESIGN

Site Map P - Partial Mapped Date 01/01/1999
 Designer Kittel, G.M.

Boundary Justification

Boundaries encompass the Cimarron River, its floodplain and a 1,000 foot to 1/2 mile buffer to allow for this ephemeral river's meanderings and unpredictable flash floods.

Primary Area 6,186.65 Acres 2,503.66 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B2: Very High Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

The site supports a fair (C-ranked) occurrence of a globally critically imperiled to globally imperiled (G1G2Q/S1S2) community, *Populus deltoides* / *Sporobolus cryptandrus*, and a good (B-ranked) occurrence of the state imperiled (GNR/S2) *Populus deltoides* / *Pascopyrum smithii* - *Panicum obtusum* plant community.

Other Values Rank No Data

Other Values Comments

No Data

ASSOCIATED ELEMENTS OF BIODIVERSITY

<u>Element</u>	<u>State Scientific Name</u>	<u>State Common Name</u>	<u>Global Rank</u>	<u>State Rank</u>	<u>Driving Site Rank</u>

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44145	<i>Populus deltoides</i> / <i>Pascopyrum smithii</i> - <i>Panicum virgatum</i> Woodland	GNR	S2	Y
44140	<i>Populus deltoides</i> ssp. <i>wislizeni</i> / Disturbed Understory Woodland	GNA	S2	Y

LAND MANAGEMENT ISSUES

Land Use Comments

No Data

Natural Hazard Comments

No Data

Exotics Comments

No Data

Offsite

No Data

Information Needs

No Data

REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
171442	Kittel, G. et al. 1998. Colorado Natural Heritage Program Riparian Survey of the Lower Arkansas River Watershed.

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

LOCATORS

Nation United States Latitude 370225N
State Colorado Longitude 1021102W

Quad Code Quad Name

36102-H3 Keyes NE
36102-H2 Sturgis NW
37102-A1 Midway SE
37102-A2 Midway SW
37102-A3 Moore Draw SE

Watershed Code Watershed Name

11040002 Upper Cimarron

VERSION

Version Date 01/01/1999

Version Author Kittel, G.M.

DISCLAIMER

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