

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Cimarron River

Site Code S.USCOHP*18157

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 1307 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 382129N
State Colorado Longitude 1073318W

<u>Quad Code</u>	<u>Quad Name</u>
38107-C5	Washboard Rock
38107-D5	Cimarron

County

Montrose (CO)

<u>Watershed Code</u>	<u>Watershed Name</u>
14020002	Upper Gunnison

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	7,160.00	Feet	2,182.00	Meters
Maximum Elevation	8,400.00	Feet	2,560.00	Meters

Site Description

The Cimarron River flows north from its headwaters in the Uncompahgre National Forest in Gunnison County. It supports a long, narrow corridor of riparian vegetation, dominated by narrowleaf cottonwood and blue spruce. In the southern part of the site, the river runs through the Cimarron State Wildlife Area. Here, the trees are widely spaced, and there is a sparse understory of thinleaf alder and red-osier dogwood. This area is probably a transition between communities dominated by blue spruce upstream, and those with cottonwood downstream (Kittel 1994). There are some steep, erosive side slopes, and water quality is questionable. However, there is little direct human disturbance, as there are no roads or trails in the valley bottom. Few exotic species were observed, except for some Canada thistle and red top. The black canyon gilia was found in crevices of granite cliffs in 1937, but has not been relocated since. Most of the northern (downstream) part of the site is on private land, with a few small BLM parcels intermixed. Farther downstream, the steep-sided canyon widens to a broad floodplain. A good condition riverine wetland four miles south of highway 50 was documented by CNHP in 1998. The area is not accessible to the public, and is undisturbed. Vegetation is similar to the upstream site, but with a higher percentage of narrowleaf cottonwood, and the addition of coyote willow in the understory, along with alder and dogwood. The cottonwoods provide a nesting area for great blue herons. Uplands here are dominated by Gambel oak and big sagebrush. Potential threats to the area include increased demands for irrigation water and development of vacation home properties upstream.

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 12/11/1998
Designer Lyon, M.J.

Boundary Justification

The boundary is drawn to include the riparian corridor of the Cimarron River.

Primary Area	2,625.03	Acres	1,062.32	Hectares
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SITE SIGNIFICANCE

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Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site contains a good (B-ranked) occurrence of a globally vulnerable (G3/S3) *Populus angustifolia* - *Picea pungens* / *Alnus incana* riparian forest. There is a historical occurrence of the globally vulnerable (G3/S3) Black Canyon gilia (*Gilia penstemonoides*) last documented in the 1930s.

Other Values Rank No Data

Other Values Comments

Reasonably intact hydrology.

LAND MANAGEMENT ISSUES

Land Use Comments

No Data

Natural Hazard Comments

No Data

Exotics Comments

No Data

Offsite

No Data

Information Needs

Search for Black Canyon gilia.

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>			
24823	<i>Populus angustifolia</i> - <i>Picea pungens</i> / <i>Alnus incana</i> Woodland	Montane Riparian Forests	G3	S3	Yes
23498	<i>Gilia penstemonoides</i>	Black Canyon gilia	G3	S3	No

REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
-	No Data

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date	05/11/1999
Version Author	Lyon, M.J.

Disclaimer

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