

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Cimarrona Creek

Site Code S.USCOHP*9453

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 281 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 373248N
State Colorado Longitude 1071243W

Quad Code Quad Name
37107-E2 Cimarrona Peak

County
Hinsdale (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name
14080102 Piedra

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	8,380.00 Feet	2,554.00 Meters
Maximum Elevation	10,400.00 Feet	3,170.00 Meters

Site Description

The Cimarrona Creek site encompasses a narrow canyon on the south end of Cimarrona Creek just prior to its confluence with Williams Creek. In the area of the confluence, the terrain opens into a broad valley that includes the very southern tip of the site. The canyon includes steep walls that drop as much as 500 feet to a narrow valley. Subalpine fir (*Abies lasiocarpa*) and Engelmann spruce (*Picea engelmannii*) dominate the overstory along the creek and thinleaf alder (*Alnus incana*) is the dominant shrub. Forbs dominate the ground cover. There are very few grasses and litter covers 57% of the ground. The riparian area is highly productive, healthy with little disturbance and the hydrology of the area is functioning properly. Although the creek is intermittent at this location, the riparian area is fed by a persistent seep. The upland communities surrounding the creek are little disturbed except for a trail leading into the Wilderness Area.

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 06/09/1997
Designer Kettler, S.M.

Boundary Justification

The boundary incorporates an area that will allow natural hydrological processes such as seasonal flooding and sediment deposition to maintain the riparian forest along Cimarrona Creek. The adjacent steep slopes that would most likely impact the riparian forest if altered are also included. It should be noted that the hydrological processes necessary to the riparian forest are not fully contained by the boundaries. Given that the riparian forest is dependent on natural hydrological processes associated with Cimarrona Creek, upstream activities such as water diversions, impoundments, improper livestock grazing, and development are detrimental to the hydrology of the riparian area. This boundary indicates the minimum area that should be considered for any conservation management plan. The boundary also includes an approximate 1,000 ft buffer. Eliminating disturbance within this buffer would aid in reducing impacts from sedimentation (Karr and Schlosser 1978), and assist in maintaining the integrity of the occurrences and its associated avian, macroinvertebrate and periphyton communities (Noel et al. 1986, Spackman and Hughes 1995).

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Primary Area 869.51 Acres

351.88 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site supports a good (B-ranked) occurrence of a globally vulnerable (G3/S3) *Salix monticola* / mesic graminoid riparian willow carr, a good (B-ranked) occurrence of a globally vulnerable (G3/S3) *Populus angustifolia* / *Alnus incana* riparian forest, and an excellent (A-ranked) occurrence of a globally common (G5/S5) *Abies lasiocarpa* / *Alnus incana* riparian forest. There is also a poor (D-ranked) occurrence of a globally imperiled (G4T1T2/SNA) bird subspecies, Southwestern Willow Flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*).

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

Hydrological processes originating outside of the planning boundary, including water quality, quantity, timing and flow must be managed to maintain site viability.

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>
24684	<i>Abies lasiocarpa</i> / <i>Alnus incana</i> Forest	Montane Riparian Forests	G5	S5	No
21881	<i>Empidonax traillii extimus</i>	Southwestern Willow Flycatcher	G5T1T2	SNA	No
24585	<i>Salix monticola</i> / Mesic Graminoids Shrubland	Montane Riparian Willow Carr	G3	S3	Yes
24541	<i>Populus angustifolia</i> / <i>Alnus incana</i> Woodland	Montane Riparian Forest	G3	S3	Yes

REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
172808	J. R. Karr and I. J. Schlosser. 1978. Water resources and the land-water interface. Science 201: 229-234.
194565	Neid, S.L. and J.R. Jones. 2008. Final Report: Survey of Critical Wetlands and Riparian Areas in Hinsdale County. Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Fort Collins, CO.
165959	Noel, D.S., C.W. Martin and C.A. Federer. 1986. Effects of Forest Clearcutting in New England on Stream Macroinvertebrates and Periphyton. Environmental Management 10: 661-670.
165197	Richard, C. and D. Grant. 1995. Colorado Natural Heritage Program Riparian Field Survey for San Juan National Forest.
159511	Spackman, S. C. and J. W. Hughes. 1995. Assessment of Minimum Stream Corridor Width for Biological Conservation: Species Richness and Distribution Along Mid-Order Streams in Vermont, USA. Biological Conservation 71:325-332.

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date 06/09/1997

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Version Author Kettler, S.M.

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