

# Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Conejos River at Menkhaven Ranch

Site Code S.USCOHP\*20692

## IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 1292 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 370557N  
State Colorado Longitude 1061843W

Quad Code Quad Name

37106-A3 Osier

County

Conejos (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name

13010005 Conejos

## SITE DESCRIPTION

|                   |               |                 |
|-------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Minimum Elevation | 8,600.00 Feet | 2,621.00 Meters |
| Maximum Elevation | 8,600.00 Feet | 2,621.00 Meters |

### Site Description

The site occurs in a broad valley with steep volcanic cliffs covered by aspen (*Populus tremuloides*), Engelmann spruce (*Picea engelmannii*), and sub-alpine fir (*Abies lasiocarpa*). The river has created a broad meandering channel through the valley floor where point bars, oxbows, and floodplain areas provide a diversity of riparian and wetland habitat. Narrowleaf cottonwood (*Populus angustifolia*) and Colorado blue spruce (*Picea pungens*) dominate the majority of the floodplain. Mountain willow (*Salix monticola*) and Bebb willow (*Salix bebbiana*) occupy wet areas within the floodplain and near beaver ponds and old oxbows. The understory in these areas consists of bluejoint reedgrass (*Calamagrostis canadensis*), woolly sedge (*Carex lanuginosa*), Kentucky bluegrass (*Poa pratensis*), woodreed (*Cinna latifolia*), redtop (*Agrostis stolonifera*), and dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*).

### 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 01/15/2000  
Designer Rocchio, F.J.

### Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the floodplain to allow natural fluvial processes (lateral flow, creation of oxbows, scouring) to continue to create potential habitat for the element.

Primary Area 216.89 Acres 87.77 Hectares

## SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

### Biodiversity Significance Comments

The site supports a good example of a plant community which is vulnerable on a global scale.

Other Values Rank No Data

### Other Values Comments

No Data

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## 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 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> |                    |                   |                          |
| 24514           | <i>Salix monticola</i> / <i>Calamagrostis canadensis</i><br>Shrubland | Montane Willow Carr      | G3                 | S3                | Yes                      |

## REFERENCES

| <u>Reference ID</u> | <u>Full Citation</u>  |
|---------------------|---|
| 165924              | Kettler, S., J. Rocchio, R. Schorr, J. Burt. 2000. Biological Inventory of Rio Grande and Conejos Counties, Colorado. Unpublished report prepared for The Nature Conservancy. 234 pp. |

## ADDITIONAL TOPICS

### Additional Topics

No Data

## VERSION

|                       |               |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| <b>Version Date</b>   | 01/15/2000    |
| <b>Version Author</b> | Rocchio, F.J. |

## Disclaimer

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