

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Cottonwood Creek at Little Crampton Mountain

Site Code S.USCOHP*8627

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 1810 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 383427N
State Colorado Longitude 1052808W

Quad Code Quad Name

38105-E4 Gribble Mountain
38105-E5 Hall Gulch

County

Fremont (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name

11020001 Arkansas Headwaters

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	6,800.00 Feet	2,072.64 Meters
Maximum Elevation	8,500.00 Feet	2,590.80 Meters

Site Description

Cottonwood Creek is a perennial stream that begins several miles upstream in South Park, a montane grassland system that blankets undulating hills punctuated by isolated mountains and buttes. The site begins downstream where the creek enters a forested landscape of more rugged and crowded low elevation hills (7,000-8,500 feet) north of the Arkansas River valley; the creek becomes more sinuous in this area as it winds around the hills. Old "Highway" 2 used to follow Cottonwood Creek until the early 1900's; an old road bed is present along creek through the site. The reach has some plunge-pool areas along an otherwise moderate gradient. At the upstream end, the riparian corridor is comprised of willow carr before cottonwood trees begin to form groves above the shrub layer. Downstream, flow becomes intermittent, shrubs largely drop out, and the corridor has a sparse mix of narrowleaf cottonwood (*Populus angustifolia*) and Rocky Mountain juniper (*Juniperus scopulorum*) over a narrow band of mesic herbs immediately adjacent to the stream channel. Immediately above the riparian corridor, north-facing slopes are a mixed forest canopy of ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*), Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), and a small amount of aspen (*Populus tremuloides*). South-facing slopes are sparsely vegetated with shrub scrub of Gambel oak (*Quercus gambelii*) and mountain mahogany (*Cercocarpus montanus*) on steep, shallow, rocky soils with many rock outcrops.

Key Environmental Factors

Lower montane elevation; moderate gradient; intermittent to perennial flow

Climate Description

No Data

Land Use History

No Data

Cultural Features

No Data

SITE DESIGN

Site Map Y - Yes Mapped Date 01/16/2006
Designer Neid, S.L.

Boundary Justification

The boundary is drawn as a 1 km buffer of the riparian corridor, which roughly approximates the adjacent ridgelines surrounding Cottonwood Creek for immediate watershed protection.

Primary Area 3,449.12 Acres 1,395.82 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B2: Very High Biodiversity Significance

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Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site encompasses a good (B-ranked) occurrence of a globally imperiled (G2G3/S2S3) riparian natural community, narrowleaf cottonwood - Rocky Mountain juniper (*Populus angustifolia* - *Juniperus scopulorum*) woodland. There is also a good (B-ranked) occurrence of an apparently globally secure (G4/S4) riparian natural community, narrowleaf cottonwood / coyote willow (*Populus angustifolia* / *Salix exigua*) 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>
24963	<i>Populus angustifolia</i> - <i>Juniperus scopulorum</i> Woodland	Montane Riparian Forest	G2G3	S2S3	Yes
24738	<i>Populus angustifolia</i> / <i>Salix exigua</i> Woodland	Narrowleaf Cottonwood Riparian Forests	G4	S4	No

REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
159580	Kittel, G., R. Rondeau and A. McMullen. 1996. A classification of the riparian vegetation of the Lower South Platte and parts of the Upper Arkansas River basins, Colorado. Unpublished CNHP Report for CO DNR and US EPA, Region VIII. 243 p.
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

Original site design by Kittel, G.M. 1997-05-12.

VERSION

Version Date 01/16/2006
Version Author Neid, S.L.

Disclaimer

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