

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Dawson Draw Canyon East

Site Code S.USCOHP*9429

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 432 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 374940N
State Colorado Longitude 1083817W

Quad Code Quad Name

37108-G6 The Glade

County

Dolores (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name

14030002 Upper Dolores

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	7,620.00 Feet	2,323.00 Meters
Maximum Elevation	7,800.00 Feet	2,377.00 Meters

Site Description

Dawson Draw Canyon East is part of a series of canyons draining northward into the Disappointment Creek from the high plateau/lower montane region north of The Glade in the San Juan National Forest. The site encompasses a narrow valley where springs add to the hydrology of an otherwise intermittent stream. Initially the gradient is gentle as the draw flows through ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) and scrub oak (*Quercus gambelii*) woodlands. Eventually, the channel gradient increases as it flows into a steep sandstone canyon before its confluence with Dawson Draw, and the Disappointment Creek. A small reservoir is upstream of dense willow shrublands in mosaic within a mosaic of narrowleaf cottonwoods (*Populus angustifolia*). A four-wheel drive road is located adjacent to the creek bed for a short distance, however, appears to be little used and eventually fades. The willow shrubland is dominated by the mountain willow/mesic forb (*Salix monticola*) plant association with a mixture of other shrubs, including strap leaf willow (*Salix ligulifolia*), Bebb's willow (*Salix bebbiana*), river hawthorn (*Crataegus rivularis*), and shrubby cinquefoil (*Dasiphora fruticosa*). There is a native and non-native mixture in the understory including graminoids such as field sedge (*Carex praegracilis*), small winged sedge (*Carex microptera*), silvery sedge (*Carex canescens*), arctic rush (*Juncus balticus*), and hay grasses (*Poa pratensis*; *Bromus inermis*). Mesic forbs mix with upland forbs and weeds including, bedstraw (*Galium septentrionalis*), goldenglow (*Rudbeckia ampla*), geranium (*Geranium richardsonii*), yellow mountain parsley (*Pseudocymopterus montanus*), black medic (*Medicago lupulina*), golden banner (*Thermopsis montana*), red clover (*Trifolium pratense*), common dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*) and other forbs in trace amounts in the herbaceous canopy cover. The narrowleaf cottonwood gallery has an open to sparse canopy cover, with a dense cover of river hawthorn in the shrub layer (*Populus angustifolia*/*Crataegus rivularis*). The shrub layer has a variety of species including snowberry (*Symphoricarpos rotundifolius*), serviceberry (*Amelanchier alnifolia*), Wood's rose (*Rosa woodsii*), shrubby cinquefoil (*Dasiphora fruticosa*), and chokecherry (*Prunus virginiana*). There was little sign of regenerating cottonwoods and the association may be changing to a river hawthorn (*Crataegus rivularis*) shrubland. Grazing impacts are moderate; some bank erosion has occurred from hoof shearing, and there is trailing within the shrublands. Weeds include common dandelion, red clover and pasture grasses; weed species are common but never dominate the herbaceous understory.

Key Environmental Factors

No Data

Climate Description

No Data

Land Use History

No Data

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Cultural Features

No Data

SITE DESIGN

Site Map Y - Yes

Mapped Date 11/15/2004

Designer March, M.A.

Boundary Justification

The boundary encompasses the element occurrences and an area that buffers immediate ecological and hydrological processes (e.g., flooding). Seasonal flooding, sediment deposition, and new channel formation would help maintain the riparian system, such as the cottonwood plant community (Hansen et al. 1995; TNC 1996). It should be noted that the hydrological processes necessary to the elements are not fully contained by the site boundaries.

Primary Area 141.80 Acres

57.38 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

The site supports the globally imperiled (G2?/S2) *Populus angustifolia*/*Crataegus rivularis* woodland in fair (C-ranked) condition; and the apparently globally secure (G4), vulnerable in the state (S3), *Salix monticola*/mesic forb shrubland in fair (C-ranked) condition.

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</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>
24727	<i>Populus angustifolia</i> / <i>Crataegus rivularis</i> Woodland	Narrowleaf Cottonwood Riparian Forests	G2?	S2	Yes
24809	<i>Salix monticola</i> / Mesic Forbs Shrubland	Montane Riparian Willow Carr	G4	S3	No

REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
159567	Carsey, K. and M. Aitken. 1993. Colorado Natural Heritage Program San Juan National Forest Riparian Site Survey.
191166	Hansen, P. L., R. D. Pfister, K. Boggs, B. J. Cook, J. Joy, and D. K. Hinckley. 1995. Classification and management of Montana's riparian and wetland sites. Montana Forest and Conservation Experiment Station, School of Forestry, University of Montana, Miscellaneous Publication No. 54. 646 pp. + posters.
192742	March, M.A. 2005. Final Report: Natural Heritage Wetland Inventory of Dolores County. Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Fort Collins, CO.
171753	The Nature Conservancy of Colorado. 1996. Yampa River Site Conservation Plan. The Nature Conservancy, Boulder, CO.

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ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

Original site design by Kettler, 1997.

VERSION

Version Date 11/15/2004

Version Author March, M.A.

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