

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Dimick Gulch

Site Code S.USCOHP*10833

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 1642 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>
1956	S.USCOHP*5778	Sangre de Cristo

LOCATORS

Nation United States Latitude 380157N
State Colorado Longitude 1054142W

Quad Code Quad Name
38105-A6 Rito Alto Peak

County
Saguache (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name
13010003 San Luis

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	7,900.00 Feet	2,408.00 Meters
Maximum Elevation	11,600.00 Feet	3,536.00 Meters

Site Description

The Dimick Gulch site is located on the western slope of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, at the edge of the San Luis Valley. It is a steep and rugged canyon with dense riparian growth. A four-wheel drive road follows the canyon up to an old cabin, where it terminates. The site contains a diverse array of shrub species on slopes adjacent to the riparian zone. Surrounding hillsides have ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) and pinon pine - juniper (*Pinus edulis - Juniperus monosperma*) woodlands. This site covers approximately 1,750 acres and extends from 7,900 to 11,600 feet in elevation.

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 02/15/1998
Designer Kittel, G.M.

Boundary Justification

The boundary drawn encompasses the riparian community described above and the adjacent uplands. The boundary also includes the immediate upstream watershed to protect against alterations to the stream flow which could impair the regeneration of the cottonwood element of this association.

Primary Area 1,747.17 Acres 707.06 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B2: Very High Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

The Dimick Gulch site contains an excellent (A-ranked) occurrence of the globally imperiled (G2G3/S2S3) narrowleaf cottonwood - Rocky Mountain juniper (*Populus angustifolia - Juniperus scopulorum*) riparian plant association. Narrowleaf cottonwood (*Populus angustifolia*) and Rocky Mountain juniper (*Juniperus scopulorum*) dominated riparian areas are very uncommon. This plant association is usually restricted to stream banks of narrow washes and creeks on steep-sided canyons such as occur at the Dimick Gulch site. Rocky Mountain juniper grows at the high water line and above, while the narrowleaf cottonwood grades into

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the active floodplain area. The narrowleaf cottonwood - Rocky Mountain juniper plant association and related types have been reported from Wyoming, and south to New Mexico. Excellent occurrences of this type are rare (Hansen et al. 1995, Youngblood et al. 1985, Gerard et al. 1995, Padgett et al. 1989, Durkin et al. 1995, Johnston 1987, Cooper and Cottrell 1990, Colorado Natural Heritage Program 1997).

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

REFERENCES

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

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date 02/15/1998
Version Author Kittel, G.M.

Disclaimer

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