

# Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Dolores Canyon South of Slick Rock

Site Code S.USCOHP2\*1572

## IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 1498 Site Class PCA  
Site Alias Dolores River at Disappointment Creek  
Site Alias Dolores River near Pyramid Park  
Site Alias River Bend

## 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 375630N  
State Colorado Longitude 1084905W

<u>Quad Code</u>	<u>Quad Name</u>
38108-A7	Hamm Canyon
37108-H7	Joe Davis Hill

## County

San Miguel (CO)  
Dolores (CO)

<u>Watershed Code</u>	<u>Watershed Name</u>
14030002	Upper Dolores

## SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	5,500.00 Feet	1,676.40 Meters
Maximum Elevation	8,100.00 Feet	2,468.88 Meters

## Site Description

Geologic formations in the canyon include Permian Cutler Formation, Triassic Wingate, Kayenta and Navajo sandstones, Jurassic Entrada, Morrison, and Summerville sandstones and shales, and Cretaceous Burro Canyon and Dakota sandstones. A large part of the site is roadless and remote. The majority is on BLM land managed by the San Juan Resource Area in Durango. The impoundment of the river at McPhee Reservoir has had a profound effect on riparian vegetation of the Dolores River. Water levels are strictly controlled, and absence of normal spring flooding has reduced the reproduction of native cottonwoods and willows, while encouraging the spread of the exotic tamarisk. However, good examples of Coyote willow riparian shrublands remain. Inaccessible benches above the river contain good examples of pinon - juniper and grassland communities

## 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 02/07/2000  
Designer Culver, D.R.

## Boundary Justification

The boundary is drawn to encompass both the riparian zone in the canyon bottom, and the steep cliffs of the canyonsides that provide nesting habitat for the Peregrine Falcons. It does not provide for all of the needs of the falcon. It is tentatively drawn to end at the San Miguel-Dolores county line, but should probably be extended, once surveys have been completed in Dolores County. Although the upstream part of the river is not included within the boundary, activities upstream, including the regulation of flows in the Dolores River at McPhee Reservoir, have a profound effect on the health of the riparian plant community.

Primary Area	9,057.86 Acres	3,665.60 Hectares
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## SITE SIGNIFICANCE

**Biodiversity Significance Rank** B4: Moderate Biodiversity Significance

### Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site is home to Peregrine Falcons (*Falco peregrinus anatum*), a globally vulnerable (G4T3/S2B) subspecies. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, due to recent increases in numbers, have proposed removal of the American Peregrine Falcon from the Endangered Species List. An excellent to good (AB-ranked) occurrence of the globally common (G5/S5) *Salix exigua* / mesic graminoid community is also within the site.

**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>
21725	<i>Falco peregrinus anatum</i>	American Peregrine Falcon	G4T4	S2B	Yes
24872	<i>Salix exigua</i> / Mesic Graminoids Shrubland	Coyote Willow/Mesic Graminoid	G5	S5	Yes

## REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
192792	Lyon, P. and J. Sovell. 2000. Final Report: A Natural Heritage Assessment, San Miguel and Western Montrose Counties, Colorado. Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Fort Collins, CO.
193492	Thrash, G. 2000. Bureau of Land Management, San Juan Resource Area. Personal Communication to the Colorado Natural Heritage Program.
193491	USDI. 1985. Record of Decision for San Juan-San Miguel Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement. Prepared by the U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Montrose District, CO, San Juan Resource Area and Uncompahgre Basin Resource Area, Montrose, CO.

## ADDITIONAL TOPICS

### Additional Topics

Original site design by Culver, D.R. 1996-09-27.

## VERSION

**Version Date** 02/07/2000

**Version Author** Lyon, M.J.

## Disclaimer

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