

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Droney Gulch and Squaw Creeks

Site Code S.USCOHP*26795

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 2426 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 383520N
State Colorado Longitude 1060741W

Quad Code Quad Name

38106-E2 Maysville
38106-E1 Salida West

County

Chaffee (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name

11020001 Arkansas Headwaters

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	7,400.00 Feet	2,255.52 Meters
Maximum Elevation	9,000.00 Feet	2,743.20 Meters

Site Description

Droney Gulch and Squaw Creeks are second-order ephemeral streams that flow through narrow, steep to moderately sloped valleys in sparsely vegetated light-brown hills of the Dry Union Formation (Tweto 1979). Dry Union Formation is comprised of Pliocene and Miocene Lacustrine alluvium deposits that form soils ranging from silt-loams to sands. It tends to form stark, steep, barren or sparsely vegetated slopes. The riparian community occurs on the immediate floodplain and narrow, entrenched creek channel. The understory is comprised of dense graminoids, sparse forbs, and intermittent shrubs beneath an overstory of mature, tall trees dominated by narrowleaf cottonwood (*Populus angustifolia*), Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), and Rocky Mountain juniper (*Juniperus scopulorum*). Upland communities consists of pinon - juniper (*Pinus edulis* - *Juniperus scopulorum*) woodlands with ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) and mountain mahogany (*Cercocarpus montanus*) on south-facing slopes and Douglas-fir and ponderosa pine on north-facing slopes. These rocky slopes yield to many creeks and gulches. The drainages have created topography that undulates from steep slopes to low gravelly to sandy gulch valleys.

Key Environmental Factors

Lower montane elevation; ephemeral stream channel

Climate Description

Average 300 days of sunshine each year. A typical summer day is sunny, in the high 70's to low 80's and evening temperatures in the high 40's and low 50's. Annual rainfall is 10.15" and annual snowfall is 30.4" with most snow occurring from the end of October through April.

Land Use History

No Data

Cultural Features

No Data

SITE DESIGN

Site Map P - Partial Mapped Date 03/10/2007
Designer Neid, S.L.

Boundary Justification

This boundary roughly includes a 1,000 foot buffer around the riparian corridor.

Primary Area 1,380.30 Acres 558.59 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B2: Very High Biodiversity Significance

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Biodiversity Significance Comments

The site supports a good (B-ranked) occurrence of a globally imperiled (G2G3/S2S3) montane riparian forest (*Populus angustifolia* - *Juniperus scopulorum*).

Other Values Rank No Data

Other Values Comments

No Data

LAND MANAGEMENT ISSUES

Land Use Comments

Grazing, hunting, recreational use

Natural Hazard Comments

No Data

Exotics Comments

There is significant non-native weed cover, such as Canada thistle (*Cirsium canadensis*), redtop (*Agrostis stolonifera*), and Kentucky bluegrass (*Poa pratensis*).

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>
198290	Culver, D.R., D. Malone, S.L. Neid, and J. Handwerk. 2009. Final Report: Survey of Critical Biological Resources in Chaffee County. Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Fort Collins, CO.
194663	Neid, S.L. 2007. Final Report: Rare Plant Survey of Select Bureau of Land Management Lands in the Arkansas River Canyon, Chaffee and Fremont Counties, Colorado. Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Fort Collins, CO.
192747	Tweto, O. 1979. Geologic Map of Colorado, 1:500,000. United States Geological Survey, Department of Interior, and Geologic Survey of Colorado, Denver, CO.

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date 03/10/2007

Version Author Neid, S.L.

Disclaimer

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