

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Dry Creek

Site Code S.USCOHP*18356

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 1953 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 382927N
State Colorado Longitude 1080405W

<u>Quad Code</u>	<u>Quad Name</u>
38108-E1	Hoovers Corner
38108-D1	Dry Creek Basin

County

Montrose (CO)

<u>Watershed Code</u>	<u>Watershed Name</u>
14020006	Uncompahange

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	5,600.00	Feet	1,707.00	Meters
Maximum Elevation	6,600.00	Feet	2,012.00	Meters

Site Description

Dry Creek drains a large portion of the Uncompahgre Plateau, and flows into the Uncompahgre River a few miles north of the Delta-Montrose county line. The slopes of the valley are shrub and grasslands with black sage, Indian rice grass, and salina wildrye. The riparian corridor of Dry Creek supports large cottonwoods and dense, almost impenetrable thickets of skunkbush, in spite of the fact that by the end of the summer, only pools of water remain on the surface. The stream meanders with curves up to 180 degrees, within a broad floodplain up to 300 ft wide. The immediate stream banks have a band of coyote willow. Other native species present are wild rose, silver buffaloberry, Gambel oak, and Canada goldenrod. The condition of the riparian community is good, with only small patches of tamarisk, Canada thistle, Kentucky bluegrass, and red top, comprising less than 5% of the total cover. There is good regeneration of cottonwoods. The dense vegetation provides excellent cover for wildlife. Between the riparian corridor and the hillside is a large flat area of greasewood, with an understory of Mojave seablight. The community has very little cheatgrass or other exotic species. The soil between shrubs has a good cover of cryptobiotic crust, including mosses and lichens. This is one of the few occurrences of greasewood seen in Montrose County that has not been invaded by cheatgrass or weedy annual mustards. It does have a significant cover (50%) of a small native annual aster, Machaeranthera parviflora. There are a few ATV trails, but the area is largely undisturbed. The transitional zone between the greasewood and the riparian community has a mix of greasewood, big sagebrush, skunkbush and rubber rabbitbrush. The few patches of grass consist of saltgrass, giant wildrye, and sand dropseed.

Key Environmental Factors

No Data

Climate Description

Arid semi-desert.

Land Use History

No Data

Cultural Features

No Data

SITE DESIGN

Site Map Y - Yes Mapped Date 12/14/1998
Designer Lyon, M.J.

Boundary Justification

The boundary is drawn to include the riparian zone of Dry Creek based on actual survey of north half of site,

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and aerial photo interpretation of south half.

Primary Area 1,815.55 Acres 734.73 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site contains a good (B-ranked) example of a globally vulnerable (G3) narrowleaf cottonwood/skunkbrush plant community (*Populus angustifolia*/*Rhus trilobata*).

Other Values Rank No Data

Other Values Comments

Wildlife habitat.

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 Rank</u>	<u>State Rank</u>	<u>Driving Site Rank</u>
<u>State ID</u>	<u>State Scientific Name</u>	<u>State Common Name</u>			
24636	<i>Sarcobatus vermiculatus</i> / <i>Suaeda moquinii</i> Shrubland	Saline Bottomland Shrublands	GUQ	S2S3	Yes
24619	<i>Populus angustifolia</i> / <i>Rhus trilobata</i> Woodland	Narrowleaf Cottonwood/Skunkbrush	G3	S3	No

REFERENCES

Reference ID **Full Citation**

- No Data

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date 06/27/2003

Version Author Bell, J.B.

Disclaimer

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