

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name East Gulch at Bull Gulch

Site Code S.USCOHP*25896

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 2294 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 382812N
State Colorado Longitude 1053452W

Quad Code Quad Name

38105-D5 Echo

County

Fremont (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name

11020001 Arkansas Headwaters

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	6,000.00	Feet	1,828.80	Meters
Maximum Elevation	9,400.00	Feet	2,865.12	Meters

Site Description

This site is embedded within a rugged landscape of steep, low elevation (7,000-9,000 ft) hills dissected by steep, narrow gulches carved out of granitic bedrock in central Fremont County. The steep, rocky uplands have a matrix of sparse pinon - juniper (*Pinus edulis* - *Juniperus monosperma*) woodland with inclusions of mixed evergreen woodland of Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) and ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) on north-facing slopes. Several steep, narrow drainages tumble down the rocky slopes before joining with other intermittent streams in the valley below. These then coalesce into a single riparian corridor of East Gulch, a tributary of the Arkansas River. Bull Gulch is a steep, dry ephemeral to intermittent channel of unsorted gravel, stones, rocks, and boulders. It has a mixed evergreen-deciduous riparian woodland characterized by Douglas-fir and narrowleaf cottonwood (*Populus angustifolia*). These species have multiple age classes within this drainage; such regeneration indicates regular flooding. Shrub and herb layers are relatively diverse but sparse. Other drainages within this area are intermittent channels with more narrowleaf cottonwood, willows (*Salix exigua*, *Salix monticola*), and mesic herbaceous species. Channels with more water flow also have more non-native species like Kentucky bluegrass (*Poa pratensis*), dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*), and clover (*Trifolium repens*). One spring-fed channel occurs. The perennial water flow supports a thicker canopy of narrowleaf cottonwood as well as river birch (*Betula occidentalis*) in the shrub layer. Streambanks of this channel are spongy and have relatively lush herbs. There are small reservoirs at the heads of the intermittent drainages at the top of the watershed.

Key Environmental Factors

Montane elevations; moderate and steep gradients; ephemeral to intermittent flow as well as spring-fed channels.

Climate Description

No Data

Land Use History

No Data

Cultural Features

No Data

SITE DESIGN

Site Map Y - Yes Mapped Date 01/13/2006

Designer Neid, S.L.

Boundary Justification

Boundary drawn along East Gulch watershed boundary to the south and to ridgelines to the north for immediate watershed protection.

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Primary Area 6,172.99 Acres

2,498.13 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site encompasses an excellent to good (AB-ranked) occurrence of a globally vulnerable (G3/S2) riparian natural community, narrowleaf cottonwood / river birch (*Populus angustifolia* / *Betula occidentalis*) woodland and a good (B-ranked) occurrence of the globally vulnerable (G3/S2) narrowleaf cottonwood - Douglas-fir (*Populus angustifolia* - *Pseudotsuga menziesii*) woodland. It also has an excellent to good (AB-ranked) occurrence of the apparently globally secure (G4/S4) narrowleaf cottonwood / coyote willow (*Populus angustifolia* / *Salix exigua*) woodland and a good (B-ranked) occurrence of the globally secure (G5/S5) coyote willow / mesic graminoids (*Salix exigua* - mesic graminoids) shrubland.

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

There is an infestation of Canada thistle (*Cirsium canadensis*) just downstream of the spring at Echo Canyon. Some less invasive, yet persistent non-natives have established as well, e.g., Kentucky bluegrass, dandelion, clover.

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>
24884	<i>Populus angustifolia</i> / <i>Betula occidentalis</i> Woodland	Montane Riparian Forest	G3	S3	Yes
24692	<i>Populus angustifolia</i> - <i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i> Woodland	Montane Riparian Forest	G3	S2	Yes
24872	<i>Salix exigua</i> / Mesic Graminoids Shrubland	Coyote Willow/Mesic Graminoid	G5	S5	No
24738	<i>Populus angustifolia</i> / <i>Salix exigua</i> Woodland	Narrowleaf Cottonwood Riparian Forests	G4	S4	No

REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
193618	Neid, S.L. 2006. Final Report: Survey of Critical Wetlands and Riparian Areas in Fremont County, Colorado. Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Fort Collins, CO.

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date 01/13/2006

Version Author Neid, S.L.

Disclaimer

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