

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Fivemile Creek

Site Code S.USCOHP*23836

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 489 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 384332N
State Colorado Longitude 1064229W

Quad Code Quad Name
38106-F6 Crystal Creek

County
Gunnison (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name
14020001 East-Taylor

SITE DESCRIPTION

| | | | | |
|-------------------|-----------|------|----------|--------|
| Minimum Elevation | 9,000.00 | Feet | 2,743.00 | Meters |
| Maximum Elevation | 10,500.00 | Feet | 3,200.00 | Meters |

Site Description

Fivemile Creek flows through a medium wide, shallow valley. The main channel is small with very little gradient, although many small swales and channels are scattered about the area. Sagebrush (*Artemisia* sp.), aspen (*Populus tremuloides*), and ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) dominate upland slopes. Some upland areas burned approximately 10 years ago. Grazing is occurring along the wetland fringe. Tall willows (*Salix monticola* and *S. geyeriana*) are common in patches but Wolf willow (*S. wolfii*) is dominant and extensive. Stands of bluejoint reedgrass (*Calamagrostis canadensis*) are also common. Water sedge (*Carex aquatilis*), star gentian (*Swertia perennis*), elephantella (*Pedicularis groenlandica*), and mountain bluebells (*Mertensia ciliata*) are common in the Wolf willow stands.

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 12/30/2002

Designer Rocchio, F.J.

Boundary Justification

The boundary represents an estimate of the area needed to maintain local hydrological conditions. Any upstream activities along Fivemile Creek and its tributaries such as water diversions, impoundments, improper livestock grazing, and development could potentially be detrimental to the hydrology of wetland areas within the site. This boundary indicates the minimum area that should be considered for any conservation management plan.

Primary Area 547.64 Acres 221.62 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site supports a good (B-ranked) example of the globally vulnerable (G3/S3) Wolf willow/mesic forb (*Salix wolfii*/mesic forb) riparian plant community. The association occurs at mid- to upper montane and lower subalpine elevations. It frequently covers wide, open, gently sloping areas near first- and second-order

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streams. It can be recognized by the generally dense layer of low-growing, silvery Wolf willow dominating the overstory with a variety of mesic forbs and some graminoids in the understory. This is a wide spread association, although never very abundant where it occurs. It is known from less than 20 locations. More stands are expected to occur. The association is threatened by improper livestock grazing and heavy recreational use.

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> |
| 24572 | <i>Salix wolfii</i> / Mesic Forbs Shrubland | Subalpine Riparian Willow Carr | G3 | S3 | Yes |

REFERENCES

| <u>Reference ID</u> | <u>Full Citation</u> |
|---------------------|--|
| 173839 | Rocchio J., G Doyle, and R. Rondeau. 2003. Final Report: Survey of Critical Wetlands and Riparian Areas in Gunnison County, Colorado. Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Fort Collins, CO. |

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date 12/30/2002
Version Author Rocchio, F.J.

Disclaimer

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