

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Little Badger Creek

Site Code S.USCOHP*8711

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 57 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 383039N
State Colorado Longitude 1054655W

Quad Code Quad Name
38105-E7 Jack Hall Mountain

County
Fremont (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name
11020001 Arkansas Headwaters

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	8,200.00 Feet	2,499.36 Meters
Maximum Elevation	9,400.00 Feet	2,865.12 Meters

Site Description

Little Badger Creek is a spring-fed ephemeral creek that runs through a narrow V-shaped valley within a landscape of rugged, low elevation hills (7,000-9,000 ft). The stream channel is severely entrenched, but terraces have re-established in the bottom with multiple channels running across the floodplain. The entrenched walls are steep, vertical, and unvegetated adjacent to a narrow strip of riparian vegetation along the streambanks. Narrowleaf cottonwood (*Populus angustifolia*) forms an interrupted tree canopy over copses of thinleaf alder (*Alnus incana*), river birch (*Betula occidentalis*), and willows (*Salix exigua* and *Salix lucida*). The understory is infested with non-native pasture grasses, although wetter terrace areas support native sedge meadow vegetation. The rugged upland slopes above the riparian corridor are steep and rocky, carved out of granitic bedrock. North-facing slopes have ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) and Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) while south-facing slopes have pinon pine (*Pinus edulis*).

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 05/12/1997

Designer Kittel, G.M.

Boundary Justification

Eastern boundary is the junction of three spring-fed tributaries. North and south boundaries are located at the top of the ridge line for immediate watershed protection. West boundary is one-half mile buffer below downstream edge of occurrence.

Primary Area 633.28 Acres 256.28 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

The biodiversity rank is based on a good (B-ranked) occurrence of a globally vulnerable (G3/S2) riparian natural community, narrowleaf cottonwood / river birch (*Populus angustifolia* / *Betula occidentalis*) woodland.

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Additional elements include a fair (C-ranked) occurrence of a globally vulnerable (G3/S3) riparian natural community, narrowleaf cottonwood / thinleaf alder (*Populus angustifolia* / *Alnus incana*) woodland and good (B-ranked) occurrences of two globally secure riparian natural communities, coyote willow / mesic graminoids (*Salix exigua* / mesic graminoids) shrubland (G5/S5) and water sedge (*Carex aquatilis*) herbaceous vegetation (G5/S4).

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>
24541	<i>Populus angustifolia</i> / <i>Alnus incana</i> Woodland	Montane Riparian Forest	G3	S3	No
24884	<i>Populus angustifolia</i> / <i>Betula occidentalis</i> Woodland	Montane Riparian Forest	G3	S3	Yes
24872	<i>Salix exigua</i> / Mesic Graminoids Shrubland	Coyote Willow/Mesic Graminoid	G5	S5	No
22745	<i>Carex aquatilis</i> Herbaceous Vegetation	Montane Wet Meadows	G5	S4	No

REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
159580	Kittel, G., R. Rondeau and A. McMullen. 1996. A classification of the riparian vegetation of the Lower South Platte and parts of the Upper Arkansas River basins, Colorado. Unpublished CNHP Report for CO DNR and US EPA, Region VIII. 243 p.
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.
169032	Rondeau, R. and A. McMullen. 1995. Colorado Natural Heritage Program Riparian Field Survey of the Arkansas River Basin.

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date 01/18/2006

Version Author Neid, S.L.

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