

# Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Little Cimarron River

Site Code S.USCOHP\*23813

## IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 1674 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 381416N  
State Colorado Longitude 1072808W

### Quad Code Quad Name

38107-C4 Lost Lake  
38107-B4 Sheep Mountain

### County

Gunnison (CO)

### Watershed Code Watershed Name

14020002 Upper Gunnison

## SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	9,200.00 Feet	2,804.00 Meters
Maximum Elevation	11,000.00 Feet	3,353.00 Meters

### Site Description

The Little Cimarron River flows through an alluviated valley through this site. The river has formed flat, broad meanders across the valley floor with numerous beaver ponds throughout the area. Subalpine fir (*Abies lasiocarpa*), Engelmann spruce (*Picea engelmannii*), and scattered aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) dominate upland slopes. Forest Road 864 runs along the river and is mainly used for recreation and logging. The riparian area is dominated by a long and contiguous stand of mountain willow (*Salix monticola*), planeleaf willow (*S. planifolia*), beaked sedge (*Carex utriculata*), bluejoint reedgrass (*Calamagrostis canadensis*), and cow parsnip (*Heracleum sphondylium* var. *montanum*).

### 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 boundaries incorporate an area that will allow natural hydrological processes such as seasonal flooding, sediment deposition, and new channel formation to maintain a viable population of the element along the Little Cimarron River. The boundaries also provide a small buffer from nearby trails and roads where surface runoff may contribute excess nutrients and sediment. It should be noted that the hydrological processes necessary to the elements are not fully contained by the site boundaries. Given that the elements are dependent on natural hydrological processes associated with the Little Cimarron River and its tributaries, upstream activities such as water diversions, impoundments, and improper livestock grazing are detrimental to the hydrology of the riparian area. This boundary indicates the minimum area that should be considered for any conservation management plan.

Primary Area 3,012.48 Acres 1,219.11 Hectares

## SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

# Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Little Cimarron River

Site Code S.USCOHP\*23813

## Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site supports a good (B-ranked) example of the globally vulnerable (G3/S3) mountain willow/mesic graminoid (*Salix monticola*/mesic graminoid) riparian shrubland. This association is a tall (5-8 ft., 1.5-2.5 m), deciduous shrubland, with an open to closed canopy of willows on broad, gentle floodplains, or in narrow canyon bottoms. It is known only from Colorado at six documented locations, and an additional twenty to fifty stands are estimated to occur. Stands with intact, native, herbaceous undergrowth are threatened by improper livestock grazing, inappropriate stream flow alterations, 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>
24585	<i>Salix monticola</i> / Mesic Graminoids Shrubland	Montane 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

# Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Little Cimarron River

Site Code S.USCOHP\*23813

These data are a product and property of Colorado State University, Colorado Natural Heritage Program (CNHP). These data are strictly "on loan" and should be considered "works in progress". Data maintained in the Colorado Natural Heritage Program database are an integral part of ongoing research at CSU and reflect the observations of many scientists, institutions and our current state of knowledge. These data are acquired from various sources, with varying levels of accuracy, and are continually being updated and revised. Many areas have never been surveyed and the absence of data in any particular geographic area does not necessarily mean that species or ecological communities of concern are not present. These data should not be regarded as a substitute for on-site surveys required for environmental assessments. Absence of evidence is NOT evidence of absence. Absence of any data does not mean that other resources of special concern do not occur, but rather CNHP files do not currently contain information to document this presence. CNHP is not responsible for whether other, non-CNHP data providers have secured landowner permission for data collected.

**These data are provided for non-commercial purposes only.** Under no circumstances are data to be distributed in any fashion to outside parties. To ensure accurate application of data, tabular and narrative components must be evaluated in conjunction with spatial components. Failure to do so constitutes a misuse of the data. The Colorado Natural Heritage Program shall have no liability or responsibility to the data users, or any other person or entity with respect to liability, loss, or damage caused or alleged to be caused directly or indirectly by the data, including but not limited to any interruption of service, loss of business, anticipatory profits or indirect, special, or consequential damages resulting from the use of operation of the data. Data users hereby agree to hold CNHP, Colorado State University, and the State of Colorado harmless from any claim, demand, cause of action, loss, damage or expense from or related to data users use of or reliance on the data, regardless of the cause or nature thereof, and even in the event that such cause is attributable to the negligence or misconduct of CNHP.

These data are provided on an as-is basis, as-available basis without warranties of any kind, expressed or implied, INCLUDING (BUT NOT LIMITED TO) WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY, FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE, AND NON-INFRINGEMENT. Although CNHP maintains high standards of data quality control, CNHP, Colorado State University, and the State of Colorado further expressly disclaim any warranty that the data are error-free or current as of the date supplied