

# Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Los Pinos River at Rincon la Osa

Site Code S.USCOHP\*9464

## IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 881 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 373842N  
State Colorado Longitude 1072002W

Quad Code Quad Name  
37107-F3 Weminuche Pass

County  
Hinsdale (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name  
14080101 Upper San Juan

## SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	10,160.00 Feet	3,097.00 Meters
Maximum Elevation	10,240.00 Feet	3,121.00 Meters

### Site Description

This site is a sedge meadow in wide valley at the base of Los Pinos River that receives indirect moisture from seeps upslope. It is dominated by sedges, especially smallwing sedge (*Carex microptera*). Thick willow carrs dominated by diamondleaf willow (*Salix planifolia*) line the riparian corridor. The willow carrs and sedge meadow transition to open meadows and subalpine spruce / fir forest in the adjacent uplands. Meadow vegetation is dominated by cinquefoil (*Pentaphylloides floribunda*), Thurber fescue (*Festuca thurberi*), bluegrass (*Poa* sp.) and mixed forbs. Dense stands of subalpine spruce / fir forest with some aspen thickets occur on south-facing toe slopes. The area is grazed by livestock, although not enough to alter the riparian community to a great extent as seen in other park areas nearby. To the north of the wet meadow is a large outfitters camp. Some upland meadow sites have a high percentage of dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*) and pasture species are present (e.g. *Phleum alpinum*, *Poa pratensis*).

### 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 06/09/1997

Designer Kettler, S.M.

### Boundary Justification

The boundary encompasses the occurrence and an approximate 1,000 foot buffer. This boundary should protect the occurrence from direct disturbance, and is thought to protect the avian, macroinvertebrate and periphyton communities and limit impacts from sedimentation (see Noel et al. 1986, Spackman and Hughes 1995, Karr and Schlosser 1978).

Primary Area 65.73 Acres 26.60 Hectares

## SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B4: Moderate Biodiversity Significance

### Biodiversity Significance Comments

The site supports a good (B-ranked) occurrence of a state rare (G4/S2?) smallwing sedge (*Carex*

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*microptera*) montane wetland.

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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

Some upland meadow sites have a high percentage of dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*) and pasture species are present (e.g. *Phleum alpinum*, *Poa pratensis*).

### Offsite

Hydrological processes originating outside of the planning boundary, including water quality, quantity, timing and flow must be managed to maintain site viability.

### 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>
22744	<i>Carex microptera</i> Herbaceous Vegetation	Montane Wetland	G4	S2?	Yes

## REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
172808	J. R. Karr and I. J. Schlosser. 1978. Water resources and the land-water interface. Science 201: 229-234.
194565	Neid, S.L. and J.R. Jones. 2008. Final Report: Survey of Critical Wetlands and Riparian Areas in Hinsdale County. Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Fort Collins, CO.
165959	Noel, D.S., C.W. Martin and C.A. Federer. 1986. Effects of Forest Clearcutting in New England on Stream Macroinvertebrates and Periphyton. Environmental Management 10: 661-670.
165197	Richard, C. and D. Grant. 1995. Colorado Natural Heritage Program Riparian Field Survey for San Juan National Forest.
159511	Spackman, S. C. and J. W. Hughes. 1995. Assessment of Minimum Stream Corridor Width for Biological Conservation: Species Richness and Distribution Along Mid-Order Streams in Vermont, USA. Biological Conservation 71:325-332.

## ADDITIONAL TOPICS

### Additional Topics

No Data

## VERSION

Version Date 06/09/1997

Version Author Kettler, S.M.

## Disclaimer

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