

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Los Pinos at Bayfield South

Site Code S.USCOHP*24592

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 2069 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 371148N
State Colorado Longitude 1073528W

Quad Code Quad Name

37107-B5 Bayfield

County

La Plata (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name

14080101 Upper San Juan

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation - Feet - Meters

Maximum Elevation - Feet - Meters

Site Description

This site is in a broad river valley with mature trees and shrubs covering a large area with an open canopy. Old oxbows and backwater sloughs are found adjacent to the river channel, receiving intermittent water and supporting sedges and rushes, some drier with upland species encroaching. Smaller river channels divide from the main stem, irrigating the riparian woodland. Cattle were noted on the west side of the river's main channel. Most of the site is owned by the Southern Ute Indian Tribe, where the tribe provides fishing access. Los Pinos River is dammed upstream (Vallecito Reservoir) and serves the agricultural area via multiple ditch diversions, from the reservoir to the county line. The open forest canopy is dominated by narrowleaf cottonwood (*Populus angustifolia*), with associated traces of ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) and blue spruce (*Picea pungens*). Cottonwood regeneration is sparse. The shrub layer is more dense and is dominated by river birch (*Betula occidentalis*) and associated species, river hawthorn (*Crataegus rivularis*) occurs on more dry ground. The understory is sparse to moderate with a weedy composition.

Key Environmental Factors

No Data

Climate Description

The general area has been experiencing drought in recent years.

Land Use History

No Data

Cultural Features

No Data

SITE DESIGN

Site Map Y - Yes Mapped Date 12/10/2003

Designer March, M.A.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries incorporate an area that will allow for as much of the natural hydrological processes from surrounding drainages as possible. Seasonal flooding and sediment deposition will help maintain a viable population of the element along Los Pinos River. The boundaries also provide a small buffer from nearby trails, roads and hay fields where surface runoff may contribute excess nutrients, sediment and weed invasion. It should be noted that the hydrological processes necessary to the element are not fully contained by the site boundaries.

Primary Area 1,117.59 Acres 452.27 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B4: Moderate Biodiversity Significance

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Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site supports a globally vulnerable (G3/S3) narrowleaf cottonwood / river birch (*Populus angustifolia* / *Betula occidentalis*) plant community in fair (C-ranked) condition.

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

Within the riparian area, the understory is sparse to moderate with a weedy composition (hounds tongue, Canada thistle, oxeye daisy, musk thistle, mullein) mixed with introduced grasses and few native graminoids.

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

REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
184533	March, M. and D. Culver. 2003. Colorado Natural Heritage Program Field Survey for La Plata County Wetlands.

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date 01/15/2004
Version Author March, M.A.

Disclaimer

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