

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Lower Corral Creek

Site Code S.USCOHP*26012

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 2330 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 400515N
State Colorado Longitude 1061055W

Quad Code Quad Name

40106-A2 Parshall

County

Grand (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name

14010001 Colorado headwaters

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	7,800.00 Feet	2,377.44 Meters
Maximum Elevation	7,900.00 Feet	2,407.92 Meters

Site Description

The community inhabits Corral Creek, a narrow second order tributary of the Colorado River, and occurs in a type A section of river where the canyon walls are steep on both sides. Along this section, vegetation is dominated by thinlinef alder (*Alnus incana*) in the tall shrub layer and red-osier dogwood (*Cornus sericea*) in the short shrub layer. Thinlinef alder is present in associations both up and downstream of the occurrence, but red-osier dogwood is confined to the narrow, more shaded sections of the river. A consistent tall shrub and short shrub layer of other species are present throughout including Drummond's willow (*Salix drummondiana*), Bebb's willow (*Salix bebbiana*), mountain willow (*Salix monticola*), whitestem gooseberry (*Ribes inerme*), and twinberry honeysuckle (*Lonicera involucrata*). The herbaceous layer is dominated by forb species such as cutleaf coneflower (*Rudbeckia laciniata* var. *ampla*), red raspberry (*Rubus idaeus*), and western water hemlock (*Cicuta douglasii*). There is an adjacent road along the stream side which is mowed and possibly treated with chemicals for vegetation encroachment. However, there are surprisingly few weedy species within the community. Water is both dammed and diverted upstream causing low flows, algal growth and some silt and sediment build-up in the stream. Soils along the creek banks are sands over cobble. Geology consists of igneous rocks of the Precambrian Age. Beaver activity is present above and below the community, but not within and may impact site hydrology. Uplands are dominated by stable Artemisia shrublands. Uplands are fragmented by a few roads, but are mainly continuous farmlands outside of adjacent BLM lands.

Key Environmental Factors

Key environmental factor include spring flooding, drainage shape and slope, and perennial surface flows.

Climate Description

Climate likely follows patterns typical of this region of Colorado, being generally xeric throughout the year, with wet spring seasons and late summer "monsoons".

Land Use History

No Data

Cultural Features

No Data

SITE DESIGN

Site Map Y - Yes Mapped Date 12/30/2005

Designer Jones, J.R.

Boundary Justification

Boundaries encompass approximately 0.6 mile of Lower Corral Creek near its confluence with the Colorado River, include a buffered upland area and encompass those ecological processes necessary to maintain site hydrology including spring flooding, and perennial surface flows. However, boundaries do not include all

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ecological processes influencing the site and activities upstream and along adjacent slopes such as improper grazing, beaver activity, water diversion, road maintenance, and development may impact site hydrology and biota.

Primary Area 38.83 Acres

15.71 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B4: Moderate Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site is drawn for a fair (C-ranked) occurrence of the globally vulnerable to globally apparently secure (G3G4/S3) plant community, thinleaf alder (*Alnus incana*) / red-osier dogwood (*Cornus sericea*) riparian shrubland.

Other Values Rank V3 - Moderate values

Other Values Comments

This site provides moderate other values including wildlife habitat and a water source in an otherwise xeric area. It also provides open space and aesthetic values, along with being an important water source for local landowners.

LAND MANAGEMENT ISSUES

Land Use Comments

Predominant land use of immediate adjacent areas include road access to private property and access to adjacent BLM lands for recreational activities. Predominant use of surrounding uplands is for livestock grazing.

Natural Hazard Comments

Spring flooding may cause hazardous conditions along road due to narrow, confined shape of the drainage.

Exotics Comments

Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*) and orchardgrass (*Dactylis glomerata*) are both present with more cover along drying edges near road.

Offsite

Off-site considerations include road maintenance, water diversions, and livestock grazing along adjacent uplands.

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>
24773	<i>Alnus incana</i> / <i>Cornus sericea</i> Shrubland	Thinleaf Alder-Red-osier Dogwood Riparian Shrubland	G3G4	S3	Yes

REFERENCES

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<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
160903	Carsey, K., D. Cooper, K. Decker, D. Culver, and G. Kittel. 2003. Statewide wetlands classification and characterization: Wetland plant associations of Colorado. Prepared for Colorado Department of Natural Resources, Denver, CO by Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Fort Collins, CO.
193632	Culver, D.R. and Jones, J.R. 2006. Final Report: Survey of Critical Biological Resources in Grand County. Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Fort Collins, CO.
160140	Dorn, R. D. 1997. Rocky Mountain Region Willow Identification Field Guide. Renewable Resources R2-RR-97-01. Denver, CO: USDA, Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Region. 107p.
167224	Hurd, E.G., N.L. Shaw, J. Mastroguiseppe, L.C. Smithman, and S. Goodrich. 1998. Field Guide to Intermountain Sedges. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rocky Mountain Research Station, Ogden, UT.
192747	Tweto, O. 1979. Geologic Map of Colorado, 1:500,000. United States Geological Survey, Department of Interior, and Geologic Survey of Colorado, Denver, CO.
193553	USDA, NRCS. 2005. The PLANTS Database, Version 3.5 (http://plants.usda.gov). Data compiled from various sources by Mark W. Skinner. National Plant Data Center < http://npdc.usda.gov/ >, Baton Rouge, LA 70874-4490 USA. Accessed 2005.
172684	Weber, W.A. and R.C. Wittmann. 2001. Colorado Flora: Western Slope, Third Edition. University Press of Colorado, Niwot, CO.

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date 12/30/2005

Version Author Jones, J.R.

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