

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Lower Florida River

Site Code S.USCOHP*24690

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 2087 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 370613N
State Colorado Longitude 1075111W

Quad Code Quad Name

37107-A7 Bondad Hill
37107-B7 Loma Linda

County

La Plata (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name

14080104 Animas

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation - Feet - Meters
Maximum Elevation - Feet - Meters

Site Description

The Florida River runs through an alluvial valley on Florida Mesa with smaller side canyons feeding into the river. Area locals describe flooding events from such canyons, especially in the fall. Otherwise the hydrology of the Florida is severely altered. Cottonwood communities occupy the river for its entire length, however, they are not contiguous. Narrowleaf cottonwood / strapleaf willow - silver buffaloberry is the driving element for the Lower Florida River site. Vegetation is characterized by mature cottonwoods with regeneration occurring only occasionally. The shrub layer is dense to sparse with sandbar willow (*Salix exigua*), silver buffaloberry (*Shepherdia argentea*), skunkbush sumac (*Rhus trilobata*), strapleaf willow (*Salix eriocephala* var. *ligulifolia*), river hawthorn (*Crataegus rivularis*) and Woods' rose (*Rosa woodsii*). The understory is largely introduced grasses and a mixture of native and non-native herbaceous species. There are common spikerush (*Eleocharis palustris*) along the creek.

Key Environmental Factors

No Data

Climate Description

No Data

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 Florida River. The boundaries also provide a small buffer from nearby trails, roads and hayfields 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 430.99 Acres 174.42 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B4: Moderate Biodiversity Significance

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Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site supports a fair occurrence (C-ranked) of the globally imperiled (G3/S3) narrowleaf cottonwood/ strapleaf willow - silver buffaloberry (*Populus angustifolia* / *Salix ligulifolia* - *Shepherdia argentea*) natural plant community and an extant occurrence of a globally vulnerable (G3/S2) fish species.

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

[March 2003:] Lemon Reservoir is upstream. The river provides the City of Durango its municipal supply, and there are several ditch diversions supplying the largely agricultural area.

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>
24496	<i>Populus angustifolia</i> / <i>Salix ligulifolia</i> - <i>Shepherdia argentea</i> Woodland	Narrowleaf Cottonwood Riparian Forests	G3	S3	Yes
20765	<i>Gila robusta</i>	Roundtail Chub	G3	S2	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 12/10/2003
Version Author March, M.A.

Disclaimer

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