

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Mavreeso Canyon-Cottonwood Creek

Site Code S.USCOHP*25381

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 2208 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 374027N
 State Colorado Longitude 1082002W

Quad Code Quad Name
 37108-F3 Nipple Mountain

County
 Dolores (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name
 14030002 Upper Dolores

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	7,700.00 Feet	2,346.96 Meters
Maximum Elevation	8,600.00 Feet	2,621.28 Meters

Site Description

This site within the San Juan National Forest lies in a narrow valley formed by lower Mavreeso Creek and upper Cottonwood Creek and their associated floodplains. Mavreeso Creek is a tributary to Cottonwood Creek. Just above the Cottonwood Guard Station, a trail follows the creek closely for about a mile before it climbs the slope above the creek and continues northeast atop a hill. Mavreeso Canyon is narrower and shadier than the canyon formed by Cottonwood Creek downstream, and provides excellent habitat for the state-rare King's clover (*Trifolium kingii*). The species occurs along both sides of the creek in moist, level areas, and especially along a small side drainage. Species associated with the King's clover occurrence include an overstory of narrowleaf cottonwood (*Populus angustifolia*), ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*), and aspen (*Populus tremuloides*), and an understory comprised of redosier dogwood (*Cornus sericea*), mountain snowberry (*Symphoricarpos oreophilus*), western sweetroot (*Osmorhiza occidentalis*), golden banner (*Thermopsis montana*), osha (*Ligusticum porteri*), and cutleaf coneflower (*Rudbeckia laciniata*). The riparian corridor along Mavreeso Creek is in good condition, with a combination of narrowleaf cottonwood, aspen, and Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), and an understory comprised of black chokeberry (*Prunus virginiana* var. *melanocarpa*), redosier dogwood, twinberry honeysuckle (*Distegia involucrata* var. *involucrata*), thinleaf alder (*Alnus incana* ssp. *tenuifolia*), and mountain snowberry. The more xeric fringes of the riparian zone support ponderosa pine and Gambel oak (*Quercus gambelii*). Additional forb species associated with the riparian community include subalpine larkspur (*Delphinium barbeyi*), Canadian white violet (*Viola canada*), hookedspur violet (*Viola adunca*), orange sneezeweed (*Dugaldia hoopesii*), and western red columbine (*Aquilegia elegantula*). Upland meadow areas within parts of Mavreeso Canyon support a variety of wildflowers. Species noted from a June 2004 site visit include mule ears (*Wyethia x magna*), Rocky Mountain iris (*Iris missouriensis*), alsike clover (*Trifolium hybridum*), blue flax (*Linum lewisii*), black medic (*Medicago lupulina*), Rocky Mountain groundsel (*Packera strepethanthifolia*), twolobe larkspur (*Delphinium nuttallianum*), and tailcup lupine (*Lupinus caudatus*). Cottonwood Creek, in the lower portion of the site, is a tributary to the Dolores River. It is generally wider, and its banks tend to be drier and less shaded than Mavreeso Creek. Its riparian corridor runs parallel with and close to well-traveled Forest Service Road 532 on the north bank of the creek. A few shaded, flat, wet areas along Cottonwood Creek provide habitat for small populations of King's clover. Narrowleaf cottonwood dominates this forested region, with an understory of twinberry honeysuckle, cutleaf coneflower, golden banner, red clover (*Trifolium pratense*), starry false Solomon seal (*Maianthemum stellatum*), feathery false Solomon seal (*Maianthemum racemosum* var. *amplexicaule*), osha, and wild mountain parsley (*Pseudocymopterus montanus*) are associated species. King's clover is often found mixed with the other *Trifolium* species in the locality.

Key Environmental Factors

No Data

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Climate Description

No Data

Land Use History

No Data

Cultural Features

No Data

SITE DESIGN

Site Map Y - Yes

Mapped Date 12/08/2004

Designer Lyon, M.J.

Boundary Justification

The boundary surrounds the riparian areas of Mavreeso Canyon and Cottonwood Creek where King's clover was found, as well as the area between the two occurrences, allowing for expansion of the populations.

Primary Area 760.76 Acres

307.87 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B4: Moderate Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

The site supports excellent (A-ranked) and good (B-ranked) occurrences of King's clover, a plant that is globally common (G5), but very rare (S1) in Colorado. The species is likely present all along both creeks mentioned, in suitable habitat (level, moist, shady); however, this habitat is fairly scarce along the lower portion of the site. The larger population in Mavreeso Canyon is estimated to be over 1,000 plants; the smaller population along Cottonwood Creek is roughly 100 plants.

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 Rank</u>	<u>State Rank</u>	<u>Driving Site Rank</u>
<u>State ID</u>	<u>State Scientific Name</u>	<u>State Common Name</u>			
23550	<i>Trifolium kingii</i>	King's clover	G5	S1	Yes
23550	<i>Trifolium kingii</i>	King's clover	G5	S1	Yes

REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
192772	Lyon, M.J. 2005. Final Report: Survey of Rare Plants. San Juan Public Lands in Dolores and Montezuma counties, Colorado. Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Fort Collins, CO.
192742	March, M.A. 2005. Final Report: Natural Heritage Wetland Inventory of Dolores County. Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Fort Collins, CO.

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

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VERSION

Version Date 12/08/2004

Version Author Lyon, M.J.

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