

# Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Middle Florida River

Site Code S.USCOHP\*24675

## IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 2083 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 371434N  
State Colorado Longitude 1074554W

### Quad Code Quad Name

37107-B6 Gem Village  
37107-C7 Durango East  
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

This site is in an alluvial valley flanked on one side by a low mesa wall and the other by agricultural fields. Uplands harbor ponderosa pine forests, juniper, and scrub oak stands. Channel migration has left terraces (some level with adjacent hay fields) and back flow channels that are now mostly dry. The old floodplains as well as intermittent ditches and natural drainages support the narrowleaf cottonwood / river hawthorn (*Populus angustifolia* / *Crataegus rivularis*) plant community. Graminoid and forb cover is minimal. Within the site, the active river channel and floodplain supports the narrowleaf cottonwood / strapleaf willow - silver buffaloberry (*Populus angustifolia* / *Salix eriocephala* var. *ligulifolia* - *Shepherdia argentea*) natural plant community. Other shrub species present include thinleaf alder (*Alnus incana*), which is sometimes dense, shining willow (*Salix lasiandra*), and Wood's rose (*Rosa woodsii*).

### Key Environmental Factors

No Data

### Climate Description

The area in general 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 elements along the Florida 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 357.46 Acres 144.66 Hectares

## SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B2: Very High Biodiversity Significance

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## Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site supports a globally imperiled (G2/S2) narrowleaf cottonwood/ strapleaf willow - silver buffaloberry (*Populus angustifolia* / *Salix ligulifolia* - *Shepherdia argentea*) natural plant community in fair (C-ranked) condition and a globally imperiled (G2?/S2) narrowleaf cottonwood / river hawthorn (*Populus angustifolia* / *Crataegus rivularis*) natural plant community in fair 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

No Data

## 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>
24496	<i>Populus angustifolia</i> / <i>Salix ligulifolia</i> - <i>Shepherdia argentea</i> Woodland	Narrowleaf Cottonwood Riparian Forests	G3	S3	No
24727	<i>Populus angustifolia</i> / <i>Crataegus rivularis</i> Woodland	Narrowleaf Cottonwood Riparian Forests	G2?	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 01/15/2004  
Version Author March, M.A.

## Disclaimer

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