

# Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Middle San Miguel Canyon

Site Code S.USCOHP\*233

## IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 72 Site Class PCA

Site Alias San Miguel River Canyon Macrosite

## Network of Conservation Areas (NCA)

<u>NCA Site ID</u>	<u>NCA Site Code</u>	<u>NCA Site Name</u>
1598	S.USWRO1*418	San Miguel River

## LOCATORS

Nation United States Latitude 380400N

State Colorado Longitude 1080932W

## Quad Code Quad Name

38108-A1	Placerville
38108-A2	Gurley Canyon
38108-B2	Sanborn Park

## County

San Miguel (CO)

## Watershed Code Watershed Name

14030003 San Miguel

## SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation 6,575.00 Feet 2,004.00 Meters

Maximum Elevation 9,200.00 Feet 2,804.00 Meters

## Site Description

The section of the San Miguel River between Placerville and the Norwood Bridge contains some of the best examples of globally imperiled riparian communities in Colorado. The riparian vegetation has been classified as narrowleaf cottonwood-blue spruce/thinleaf alder and as narrowleaf cottonwood/river birch. However, there is an impressive diversity of tree and shrub species within these communities. In addition to the dominant species named above, tree species include ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir, Rocky Mountain juniper, Gambel's oak, and box elder. Shrubs include red-osier dogwood, twinberry honeysuckle, snowberry, serviceberry, and several willows. Several major tributaries enter the San Miguel in this stretch of the river. They include Specie Creek, Saltado Creek, Beaver Creek and McKenzie Creek. Surveys of this PCA have been made by The Nature Conservancy, and by CNHP in 1991, 1997 and 1999 (Kittel 1991, Stevens and Zoerner 1997). The PCA includes The Nature Conservancy's San Miguel Canyon Preserve, as well as BLM and some private lands. The Norwood School has established an environmental education "outdoor classroom" on BLM land near the Norwood Bridge, in cooperation with the BLM. A signed nature trail identifies some of the common plants in the PCA. The area is popular for fishing, picnicking, and river rafting. There is a developed BLM campground and raft launch area at Beaver Creek, and a raft launch area at Specie 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 03/13/2000

Designer Lyon, M.J. and J.R. Sovell

## Boundary Justification

The boundary is drawn to include both the riparian zone of the San Miguel River between Placerville and the Norwood Bridge, as well as the canyonsides, up to the level mesa tops. The uplands are included, since they can influence the hydrology of the PCA through sedimentation and discharge of particulate metals into the stream system.

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Primary Area 11,273.56 Acres

4,562.27 Hectares

## SITE SIGNIFICANCE

**Biodiversity Significance Rank** B3: High Biodiversity Significance

### Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site contains two riparian plant communities (both containing river birch) that are considered to be vulnerable on a global scale, and rare in Colorado. In addition, the PCA contains four occurrences of the more common narrowleaf cottonwood-blue spruce/thinleaf alder montane riparian forest.

**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>			
24637	<i>Betula occidentalis</i> / Mesic Graminoids Shrubland	Lower Montane Riparian Shrublands	G3	S2	Yes
24884	<i>Populus angustifolia</i> / <i>Betula occidentalis</i> Woodland	Montane Riparian Forest	G3	S3	Yes
24823	<i>Populus angustifolia</i> - <i>Picea pungens</i> / <i>Alnus incana</i> Woodland	Montane Riparian Forests	G3	S3	Yes
24823	<i>Populus angustifolia</i> - <i>Picea pungens</i> / <i>Alnus incana</i> Woodland	Montane Riparian Forests	G3	S3	Yes
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## REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
-	No Data

## ADDITIONAL TOPICS

**Additional Topics**  
No Data

## VERSION

**Version Date** 03/13/2000

**Version Author** Lyon, M.J. and J.R. Sovell

## Disclaimer

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