

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Morgan Canyon

Site Code S.USCOHP*24674

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 2082 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 370117N
State Colorado Longitude 1081337W

Quad Code Quad Name

37108-A2 Redmesa

County

La Plata (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name

14080105 Middle San Juan

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation - Feet - Meters

Maximum Elevation - Feet - Meters

Site Description

Morgan Canyon site lies in a canyon with sheer walls of yellow and gray Cliffhouse Sandstone. In 1998, CNHP ecologists reported pictographs and local knowledge of ruins in the area. There is dense vegetation and large boulders choking the canyon. Narrowleaf cottonwood (*Populus angustifolia*) dominates the open to sparse tree canopy and skunkbush sumac (*Rhus trilobata*) dominates the dense shrub layer with associated species including Fendler's bush (*Fendlera falcata*) and virgins bower (*Clematis ligusticifolia*). Pinyon pine (*Pinus edulis*) and juniper (*Juniperus osteosperma*) are situated within the canyon as well. The cottonwood community occupies the sandy canyon bottom where storm water runs through. The area is in an arid environment where the soils are bare except for riparian zones. Hydrology is ephemeral, with pools of water persisting into the summer.

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 12/10/2002

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 in Morgan Canyon.

Primary Area 267.63 Acres 108.31 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

The site supports a globally vulnerable (G3/S3) narrowleaf cottonwood / skunkbush sumac (*Populus angustifolia* / *Rhus trilobata*) plant community in excellent (A-ranked) condition.

Other Values Rank No Data

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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>
24619	<i>Populus angustifolia</i> / <i>Rhus trilobata</i> Woodland	Narrowleaf Cottonwood/Skunkbrush	G3	S3	Yes

REFERENCES

Reference ID

Full Citation

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.

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