

# Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name North Fork of Little Thompson River

Site Code S.USCOHP\*25353

## IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 2186 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 401921N  
State Colorado Longitude 1051800W

Quad Code Quad Name  
40105-C3 Pinewood Lake

County  
Larimer (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name  
10190006 Big Thompson

## SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	5,700.00 Feet	1,737.36 Meters
Maximum Elevation	6,300.00 Feet	1,920.24 Meters

### Site Description

The North Fork of the Little Thompson is free-flowing, coming out of the Roosevelt National Forest to the west. The river winds through granitic mountains covered in ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) woodland and savanna that gives way to grasslands in the valleys. The specific reach of the occurrence is contained on a 5,000-acre bison ranch that is maintained in natural vegetation. Cattle were grazed on the ranch prior to its conversion to bison grazing in 1989. This will be an interesting example of how riparian areas change with the replacement of cattle grazing with bison grazing. The riparian woodland has a canopy of cottonwoods (narrowleaf cottonwood, *Populus angustifolia*, and plains cottonwood, *Populus deltoides*) with a dense understory of chokecherry (*Prunus virginiana*), willows (*Salix* spp.), and clematis (*Clematis ligusticifolia*). Mesic graminoids and forbs comprise the understory. Certain areas have early successional willows succeeding wet meadow vegetation.

### Key Environmental Factors

As this reach of the North Fork of the Little Thompson is wild, natural flood regimes are the predominant environmental factor influencing the riparian natural communities.

### Climate Description

No Data

### Land Use History

The 5,000-acre parcel that comprises the Blue Mountain Bison Ranch was formerly a cattle ranch prior to 1989.

### Cultural Features

No Data

## SITE DESIGN

Site Map Y - Yes Mapped Date 01/26/2005  
Designer Neid, S.L.

### Boundary Justification

The element occurrence along this reach of the North Fork of Little Thompson River was buffered by 2,000 feet. Keate (2004), Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, suggests a 2,000-foot buffer distance to minimize impacts to associated wildlife.

Primary Area 851.03 Acres 344.40 Hectares

## SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

### Biodiversity Significance Comments

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This site was drawn for a good (B-ranked) occurrence of a globally imperiled (G2Q/S1) riparian woodland, narrowleaf cottonwood / chokecherry (*Populus angustifolia* / *Prunus virginiana*) woodland.

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>
24941	<i>Populus angustifolia</i> / <i>Prunus virginiana</i> Woodland	Narrowleaf Cottonwood/Common Chokecherry	G2Q	S1	Yes

### REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
192692	Doyle, G.A., S.L. Neid and R.J. Rondeau. 2005. Final Report: Survey of Critical Biological Resources, Larimer County, Colorado. Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Fort Collins, CO.
192813	Keate, Nancy S. 2004. Bibliography of Impacts to Wetlands II - Draft - revised - Jan 2004. Utah Wetland Outreach, Wildlife Resources, Utah Department of Natural Resources.

### ADDITIONAL TOPICS

## Additional Topics

No Data

### VERSION

Version Date 01/26/2005

Version Author Neid, S.L.

### Disclaimer

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