

# Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Sand Gulch at Copper Mountain

Site Code S.USCOHP\*8622

## IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 1521 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 382859N  
State Colorado Longitude 1054720W

## Quad Code Quad Name

38105-D7 Howard

## County

Fremont (CO)

## Watershed Code Watershed Name

11020001 Arkansas Headwaters

## SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	7,400.00	Feet	2,255.52	Meters
Maximum Elevation	9,300.00	Feet	2,834.64	Meters

## Site Description

This moderately steep, intermittent drainage flows through a steep-sided tributary valley that is set within a general landscape of rugged, low elevation hills (7,000-8,000 feet) composed of granite and gneiss bedrock. South-facing slopes are dominated by sparse pinon - juniper (*Pinus edulis* - *Juniperus monosperma*) woodland, whereas north-facing slopes have denser canopies and more ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*). The drainage is primarily a sand and gravel wash interspersed with areas where surface water emerges forming narrow, mossy rivulets. Dry areas of the channel are strewn with cobble, rocks, and boulders. The tree canopy in this relatively dry riparian corridor is dominated by Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) and narrowleaf cottonwood (*Populus angustifolia*). Shrubs and herbs are sparse and comprised of upland as well as wetland species. However, there are two areas with groves of river birch (*Betula occidentalis*), one of which has exceptionally large, multi-stemmed individuals that contribute to the canopy. This site occupies the upper portion of this tributary drainage. Below, it drains into a network of consecutively wider sand washes before its confluence with the Arkansas River.

## 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 04/21/2006

Designer Neid, S.L.

## Boundary Justification

Ridge tops were used as north and south boundaries for immediate watershed protection. Upper watershed boundary is the northern boundary and a few hundred yards below tributary confluence to buffer the occurrences.

Primary Area 970.63 Acres 392.80 Hectares

## SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

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## Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site contains good (B-ranked) occurrences of globally vulnerable (G3/S2) riparian natural communities: narrowleaf cottonwood - Douglas-fir (*Populus angustifolia* - *Pseudotsuga menziesii*) woodland and narrowleaf cottonwood / river birch (*Populus angustifolia* / *Betula occidentalis*) 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>
24692	<i>Populus angustifolia</i> - <i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i> Woodland	Montane Riparian Forest	G3	S2	Yes
24884	<i>Populus angustifolia</i> / <i>Betula occidentalis</i> Woodland	Montane Riparian Forest	G3	S3	Yes

## REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
159580	Kittel, G., R. Rondeau and A. McMullen. 1996. A classification of the riparian vegetation of the Lower South Platte and parts of the Upper Arkansas River basins, Colorado. Unpublished CNHP Report for CO DNR and US EPA, Region VIII. 243 p.
193618	Neid, S.L. 2006. Final Report: Survey of Critical Wetlands and Riparian Areas in Fremont County, Colorado. Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Fort Collins, CO.

## ADDITIONAL TOPICS

### Additional Topics

Original site design by Kittel, G. 1997-04-23.

## VERSION

Version Date 04/21/2006  
Version Author Neid, S.L.

## Disclaimer

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