

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Sixmile Creek

Site Code S.USCOHP*22213

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 1525 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 381245N
State Colorado Longitude 1042436W

Quad Code Quad Name

38104-B4 Vineland

County

Pueblo (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name

11020002 Upper Arkansas

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	4,520.00 Feet	1,378.00 Meters
Maximum Elevation	4,700.00 Feet	1,433.00 Meters

Site Description

Sixmile Creek is a tributary to the Arkansas River located between the towns of Vineland and Avondale. The creek has been documented by the Colorado Division of Wildlife to support Arkansas darter (*Etheostoma cragini*), a globally imperiled small plains fish (Colorado Division of Wildlife 2001). Arkansas darter are a small eastern plains fish native to streams in the Arkansas River basin and are known to inhabit small, shallow, clear streams that are often spring-fed and have sandy substrates, slow current, cooler water, and aquatic vegetation (Nesler et al. 1999). The Arkansas darter have been documented in about a six-mile reach of the creek from the confluence with the Arkansas River upstream about to where Bessemer Ditch crosses the creek. Bessemer Ditch is an irrigation canal transporting Arkansas River water from the base of Pueblo Reservoir to the Huerfano River and supplying farmers along the south bank of the Arkansas River. The source of the water in the creek is not well understood. Springs may discharge to Sixmile Creek creating the wetland habitat and ponds or the water may be leakage from Bessemer Ditch. In addition, the Arkansas darter population is also not well understood with few individuals located on multiple sampling events. Vegetation within a marshy just below the Bessemer Ditch crossing includes threesquare bulrush (*Scirpus pungens*), cattail (*Typha* sp.), Baltic rush (*Juncus balticus*), mixed grasses. Non-native plants within the marshy area include Canada thistle (*Breca arvensis*) and Russian olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*).

Key Environmental Factors

No Data

Climate Description

No Data

Land Use History

No Data

Cultural Features

No Data

SITE DESIGN

Site Map P - Partial Mapped Date 05/25/2001

Designer Doyle, G.A.

Boundary Justification

The boundary encompasses the reach of Sixmile Creek considered to be occupied Arkansas darter habitat by the Colorado Division of Wildlife (Colorado Division of Wildlife 2001). The site could be expanded to include a greater proportion of the watershed to ensure maintenance of the ecological and hydrological processes necessary to support the Arkansas darter population.

Primary Area 1,671.40 Acres 676.40 Hectares

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SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B5: General Biodiversity Interest

Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site contains a poor (D-ranked) population of a globally vulnerable (G3G4/S2) fish, the Arkansas darter (*Etheostoma cragini*).

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>			
20664	<i>Etheostoma cragini</i>	Arkansas Darter	G3G4	S2	Yes

REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
168480	Colorado Division of Wildlife. 2001. Colorado Natural Diversity Information Source website http://ndis.nrel.colostate.edu
164285	Nesler, T., C. Bennett, J. Melby, G. Dowler, and M. Jones. 1999. Inventory and Status of Arkansas River Native Fishes in Colorado. Colorado Division of Wildlife, Colorado Springs, Colorado.

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date 09/16/2003
Version Author Spackman, S.C.

Disclaimer

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