

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name South Fork at Beaver Reservoir

Site Code S.USCOHP*23696

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 1944 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 384837N
State Colorado Longitude 1072740W

Quad Code Quad Name
38107-G4 Minnesota Pass

County
Gunnison (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name
14020004 North Fork Gunnison

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	6,900.00 Feet	2,103.00 Meters
Maximum Elevation	10,800.00 Feet	3,292.00 Meters

Site Description

South Fork is a steep creek within a narrow valley. Riparian vegetation is dominated by narrowleaf cottonwood (*Populus angustifolia*) and alder (*Alnus incana* ssp. *tenuifolia*) with red-osier dogwood (*Cornus sericea*) and Woods' rose (*Rosa woodsii*) in the understory. Additional associated species include wintergreen (*Pyrola rotundifolia*), Porter's groundsel (*Ligularia porteri*), Rocky Mountain maple (*Acer glabrum*), and Bebb willow (*Salix bebbiana*). The vegetation is dense and with few non-natives where cattle have not grazed.

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 01/06/2003
Designer Doyle, G.A.

Boundary Justification

The site includes a portion of South Fork and the adjacent watershed. The boundary represents a preliminary estimate of the area needed to maintain local hydrological conditions. However, it should be noted that the hydrological processes necessary to the riparian area are not fully contained by the site boundaries. Any upstream activities along South Fork and its tributaries could potentially be detrimental to the hydrology of the riparian area. This boundary indicates the minimum area that should be considered for any conservation management plan.

Primary Area 1,186.30 Acres 480.08 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site supports a good (B-ranked) example of a globally vulnerable (G3/S3) narrowleaf cottonwood/alder riparian forest (*Populus angustifolia*/*Alnus incana* ssp. *tenuifolia*). This association is known from New Mexico and Colorado. Although not well documented from other states, it is expected to occur throughout the range of *Populus angustifolia* in the Rocky Mountains. In Colorado, this is a common community along montane streams, but few high quality examples exist. This association is highly threatened by improper

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livestock grazing, development and stream flow alterations.

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>
24541	<i>Populus angustifolia</i> / <i>Alnus incana</i> Woodland	Montane Riparian Forest	G3	S3	Yes

REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
164036	Doyle, G.A. 2002. Colorado Natural Heritage Program Field Survey of Critical Wetlands in Gunnison County.
173839	Rocchio J., G Doyle, and R. Rondeau. 2003. Final Report: Survey of Critical Wetlands and Riparian Areas in Gunnison County, Colorado. Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Fort Collins, CO.

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date 01/06/2003

Version Author Doyle, G.A.

Disclaimer

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