

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Unnamed Tributary to Badger Creek at Howard

Site Code S.USCOHP*8624

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 678 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 382913N
State Colorado Longitude 1055010W

Quad Code Quad Name

38105-D7 Howard

County

Fremont (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name

11020001 Arkansas Headwaters

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	7,700.00 Feet	2,346.96 Meters
Maximum Elevation	8,760.00 Feet	2,670.05 Meters

Site Description

This small ephemeral creek drains into the lower reach of Badger Creek approximately 1.25 miles upstream from its confluence with the Arkansas River. This tributary winds through an extensive series of sandstone hogbacks that run perpendicular to the stream. The sandstone cliffs (Sangre de Cristo Formation) constrict the creek and create a narrow, sinuous drainage. The creek bed is primarily a sand wash with intermittent small saturated areas of spongy ground. Flood scouring is evident; likely from early season snow melt. The riparian vegetation is composed of approximately 80-100 year old narrowleaf cottonwood (*Populus angustifolia*) with Rocky Mountain juniper (*Juniperus scopulorum*) on terraces as well as along stream channels. North-facing slopes have Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*). Narrowleaf cottonwood regeneration is evident in the stream channel.

Key Environmental Factors

Lower montane elevation; low to moderate gradient; ephemeral to intermittent flow.

Climate Description

No Data

Land Use History

No Data

Cultural Features

No Data

SITE DESIGN

Site Map Y - Yes Mapped Date 01/13/2006

Designer Neid, S.L.

Boundary Justification

Northern boundary includes tributary spring-fed ephemeral washes and topography that influence occurrence site. Eastern boundary includes convergence of several spring-fed ephemeral tributaries. Downstream (western) boundary includes confluence with Badger Creek and approximately 200 yards buffer. South boundary is immediate ridgetops for watershed protection.

Primary Area 1,845.35 Acres 746.79 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B2: Very High Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site is drawn for an excellent (A-ranked) occurrence of a globally imperiled (G2G3/S2S3) riparian natural community, narrowleaf cottonwood - Rocky Mountain juniper (*Populus angustifolia* - *Juniperus*

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scopulorum) woodland and a good (B-ranked) occurrence of a globally imperiled (G2G3) pale blue-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium pallidum*).

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>
24963	<i>Populus angustifolia</i> - <i>Juniperus scopulorum</i> Woodland	Montane Riparian Forest	G2G3	S2S3	Yes
21615	<i>Sisyrinchium pallidum</i>	pale blue-eyed grass	G2G3	S2	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.M. 1997-05-12.

VERSION

Version Date 01/13/2006

Version Author Neid, S.L.

Disclaimer

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