

# Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Vallecito Reservoir Tributary

Site Code S.USCOHP\*24672

## IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 2080 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 372614N  
State Colorado Longitude 1073354W

Quad Code Quad Name  
37107-D5 Vallecito Reservoir

County  
La Plata (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name  
14080101 Upper San Juan

## SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation - Feet - Meters  
Maximum Elevation - Feet - Meters

### Site Description

The small stream is incised in clay and limestone, creating a wide gully occupied by lush riparian forbs. Quaking aspen occur on the higher slopes adjacent the gully bottom while dense shrubs wind through the gully and limited floodplain. The shrub canopy is dominated by red-osier dogwood (*Cornus sericea*) and associated species, Drummond's willow (*Salix drummondiana*). At least half of the mature aspen in the riparian zone were killed or damaged by wildfire, decreasing the canopy cover since last surveyed in 1994. Community is located within the Missionary Ridge wildfire of 2002 area. The upslopes were partially burned, creating a mottled appearance. Unburned trees are affected as well with unstable soils/root balls. Community still exists in riparian zone with dense shrub and forb cover. Tree layer is most directly affected by burn since aspens occupy a higher slope than the shrub layer where the fire appears to have been more intense. Mature aspen are reduced in canopy cover however aspen regeneration is dense in surrounding area -- present but not dense within riparian area. Soils are unstable and stream bank erosion is severe. Area is currently not safe.

### 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 12/15/2003  
Designer March, M.A.

### Boundary Justification

The boundaries incorporate an area that will allow as much of the available hydrological processes as possible. Seasonal flooding helps to maintain a viable riparian plant community. It should be noted that the hydrological processes necessary to the elements are not fully contained by the site boundaries.

Primary Area 50.38 Acres 20.39 Hectares

## SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B4: Moderate Biodiversity Significance

### Biodiversity Significance Comments

The site supports the state imperiled (G4 / S2S3) quaking aspen / red-osier dogwood (*Populus tremuloides* /

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Cornus sericea) plant community in partially damaged condition. The occurrence was reported in good (B-ranked) condition in 1994. Ranks have not been changed in 2003 from the previously existing rank.

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>
24591	<i>Populus tremuloides</i> / <i>Cornus sericea</i> Forest	Montane Riparian Woodland	G4	S2S3	Yes

## REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
184533	March, M. and D. Culver. 2003. Colorado Natural Heritage Program Field Survey for La Plata County Wetlands.

## ADDITIONAL TOPICS

### Additional Topics

No Data

## VERSION

Version Date 12/15/2003

Version Author March, M.A.

## Disclaimer

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