

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name West Alder Creek

Site Code S.USCOHP*20715

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 661 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 374311N
State Colorado Longitude 1063958W

Quad Code Quad Name
37106-F6 South Fork West

County
Rio Grande (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name
13010001 Rio Grande headwaters

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	8,400.00	Feet	2,560.00	Meters
Maximum Elevation	8,700.00	Feet	2,652.00	Meters

Site Description

The site is located along West Alder Creek, which is a small tributary to the Rio Grande. The site is a narrow riparian area with a high diversity of shrubs and evidence of regeneration. Thinleaf alder (*Alnus incana*), whiplash willow (*Salix lucida* var. *caudata*), Drummond willow (*Salix drummondiana*), mountain maple (*Acer glabrum*), and red-osier dogwood (*Cornus sericea*) are the dominant shrubs. A diverse assemblage of herbaceous species is also found at the site including bluejoint reedgrass (*Calamagrostis canadensis*), woolly sedge (*Carex lanuginosa*), black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia* sp.), yarrow (*Achillea lanulosa*), western willow aster (*Aster hesperius*) and cow parsnip (*Heracleum sphondylium*). The surrounding slopes are steep and dry. The dominant trees on these slopes include piñon pine (*Pinus edulis*), one-seed juniper (*Juniperus monosperma*), ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) and Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*). Beaver activity is evident and small beaver ponds are scattered along this stretch of the creek. At times the creek is constricted by steep canyon walls and in some areas a small floodplain exists.

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 01/27/2000
Designer Rocchio, F.J.

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes all of the floodplain along this stretch of the creek to allow the effects of fluvial processes and beaver activity to continue to create additional habitat where the element could potentially establish. Ecological processes or environmental impacts that originate upstream of the site may affect the viability of this occurrence.

Primary Area 191.41 Acres 77.46 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

The site supports a good example of a plant community vulnerable on a global scale.

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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>
24743	<i>Alnus incana</i> - <i>Salix drummondiana</i> Shrubland	Montane Riparian Shrubland	G3	S3	Yes

REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
165924	Kettler, S., J. Rocchio, R. Schorr, J. Burt. 2000. Biological Inventory of Rio Grande and Conejos Counties, Colorado. Unpublished report prepared for The Nature Conservancy. 234 pp.

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date	01/27/2000
Version Author	Rocchio, F.J.

Disclaimer

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