

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name West Bijou Creek at 86

Site Code S.USCOHP2*2290

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 1160 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 391745N
State Colorado Longitude 1041858W

Quad Code Quad Name

39104-C3 Big Gulch

County

Elbert (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name

10190011 Bijou

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	5,840.00 Feet	1,780.00 Meters
Maximum Elevation	5,960.00 Feet	1,817.00 Meters

Site Description

West Bijou Creek has a wide bottom and a well vegetated floodplain with plains cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*). The floodplain itself is a series of terraces. *Salix exigua* and *Typha latifolia* line the creek channel. Larger and older cottonwoods and peached-leaved willow (*Salix amygdaloides*) occur on higher surfaces. Drier terraces have patches of native grasses: needle and thread grass (*Stipa comata*), Indian ricegrass (*Oryzopsis hymenoides*), rabbitbrush (*Chrysothamnus nauseosus*), and prickly-pear cactus (*Opuntia polycantha*). Weeds in the dry areas are very abundant, and include such species as *Bromus tectorum*, *Melilotus officinale*, *Medicago lupulina*, *Lepidium sp.*, *Cirsium arvense*, and others. This site is not as large as the West Bijou Creek at Byers site. This site, however, appears to be wetter and supports a more diverse riparian mosaic.

Key Environmental Factors

West Bijou Creek is a summer thunderstorm-driven hydrology. Infrequent flash flooding is the historical norm. Without flooding, the cottonwood community would be replaced by weeds and upland species. Beaver have recently (1990's) been reintroduced to the ranch, and the floodplain has increased productivity of native woody species due to a higher and more stable water table.

Climate Description

Cold, dry winters with snow precipitation, hot dry summers with occasional thunder showers.

Land Use History

Cattle ranch.

Cultural Features

No Data

SITE DESIGN

Site Map P - Partial Mapped Date 09/12/1994
Designer Pague, C.A.

Boundary Justification

Active and historic floodplain of the creek.

Primary Area 1,509.52 Acres 610.88 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B4: Moderate Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site contains one good (B-ranked) occurrence of a globally demonstrably secure (G5/S5) natural community and one fair (C-ranked) occurrence of a globally vulnerable (G3G4/S3) natural community.

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Other Values Rank No Data

Other Values Comments

No Data

LAND MANAGEMENT ISSUES

Land Use Comments

Working cattle ranch.

Natural Hazard Comments

No Data

Exotics Comments

Mant non-native herbaceous weedy species occur on the floodplain. See list in site description.

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>
24670	<i>Populus deltoides</i> - (<i>Salix amygdaloides</i>) / <i>Salix</i> (<i>exigua, interior</i>) Woodland	Plains Cottonwood Riparian Woodland	G3G4	S3	Yes
24872	<i>Salix exigua</i> / Mesic Graminoids Shrubland	Coyote Willow/Mesic Graminoid	G5	S5	Yes

REFERENCES

Reference ID Full Citation

- No Data

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date 04/15/2003

Version Author Bell, J.B.

Disclaimer

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