

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name West Bijou Creek at Byers

Site Code S.USCOHP2*2289

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 1161 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 393838N
State Colorado Longitude 1041341W

<u>Quad Code</u>	<u>Quad Name</u>
39104-F2	Byers
39104-E2	Byers SW
39104-F3	Strasburg
39104-E3	Strasburg SE

County

Arapahoe (CO)
Elbert (CO)

<u>Watershed Code</u>	<u>Watershed Name</u>
10190011	Bijou

SITE DESCRIPTION

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

Site Description

West Bijou Creek is an ephemeral stream on the Great Plains of eastern Colorado. The stream drains from the Black Forest region of Elbert and El Paso county. The floodplain and the channel are relatively wide. The substrate is sandy and the stream is often dry in the late summer. The southern end of the conservation site is surrounded by rangeland but the northern end is often surrounded by agricultural land (center pivot irrigation). Elevations range from about 5190 to 5430 feet. The floodplain at this site is dominated by stands of cottonwoods (*Populus deltoides*). Peachleaf willow (*Salix amygdaloides*) is present but never abundant. Coyote willow (*Salix exigua*) is present within the floodplain in varying quantities, generally dense near the channel but less so on higher surfaces above the channel. The understory is highly variable. Both native and exotic grasses are common including sand dropseed (*Sporobolus cryptandrus*), Canadian wildrye (*Elymus canadensis*), cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*), Japanese brome (*Bromus japonicus*), Kentucky bluegrass (*Poa pratensis*), and redtop (*Agrostis stolonifera*). The site does not contain much diversity in terms of the number and size of different plant associations. West Bijou Creek at HWY 86 (Krueger property) contains several other riparian and wetland plant associations and is in better condition.

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 09/12/1994
Designer Pague, C.A.

Boundary Justification

Boundaries that protect the element from direct impacts such as weed invasion and physical alteration of the vegetation structure should be considered a minimum. Boundaries should incorporate the major ecological processes that allow the element to survive. These may include but are not limited to channel migration,

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hydrology, fire, and herbivory. Inclusion of the entire floodplain into the site boundaries will allow natural migration of the channel, allowing the creation of sites for cottonwood regeneration and other vegetation types. This also may help limit the further invasion of exotic species (especially from agricultural fields).

Primary Area 5,314.40 Acres 2,150.67 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B4: Moderate Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

This PCA (potential conservation area) contains one fair occurrence of a globally apparently secure natural community.

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

The entire watershed needs to be monitored. Natural hydrologic flow of the stream and ground water must be monitored for long-term survival of this riparian ecosystem.

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 (exigua, interior)</i> Woodland	Plains Cottonwood Riparian Woodland	G3G4	S3	Yes

REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
-	No Data

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date 01/10/1996

Version Author Kettler, S.M.

Disclaimer

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