

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name West Dolores Campground

Site Code S.USCOHP*1538

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 1663 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 374021N
State Colorado Longitude 1081550W

Quad Code Quad Name
37108-F3 Nipple Mountain

County
Dolores (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name
14030002 Upper Dolores

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	7,725.00 Feet	2,355.00 Meters
Maximum Elevation	8,800.00 Feet	2,682.00 Meters

Site Description

West Dolores Campground site surrounds the West Dolores River from its confluence with Goble Creek downstream to its confluence with Cottonwood Creek. This montane reach of the West Dolores River is within a wide red canyon, comprised of the Dolores Formation (red siltstone, sandstone, shale and limestone-pellet conglomerate) (Tweto 1979). The site contains contiguous vegetation dominated by mixed deciduous-coniferous riparian forests in a riparian shrubland mosaic. The dynamic fluvial processes in the stream channel facilitate lush, vigorous woody vegetation representing all age classes. Colorado blue spruce (*Picea pungens*) dominates the tree layer, often associated with narrowleaf cottonwood (*Populus angustifolia*). Thinleaf alder (*Alnus incana*) dominates the shrub layer, associated with twinberry honeysuckle (*Lonicera involucrata*), serviceberry (*Amelanchier alnifolia*), chokecherry (*Prunus virginiana*) and others. A diverse assemblage of willows associate with narrowleaf cottonwoods or occur in dense carrs. Mountain willow (*Salix monticola*) dominates the shrub layer with coyote willow (*Salix exigua*), shining willow (*Salix lasiandra*), and strap leaf willow (*Salix ligulifolia*). The herbaceous understory is dominated by mesic forbs in sparse to moderate canopy cover. Herbaceous species include goldenglow (*Rudbeckia ampla*), cow parsnip (*Heracleum sphondylium* subsp. *montanum*), false Solomon's seal (*Maianthemum stellatum*), smooth horsetail (*Hippochaete laevigata*), and field horsetail (*Equisetum arvense*). Upland or weedy species encroach from disturbed areas and include common dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*), black medic (*Medicago lupulina*), red clover (*Trifolium pratense*) and orchard grass (*Dactylis glomerata*). Scattered individuals of oxeye daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*) were noted within the sites well as occurring in dense patches upstream of the site. Property ownership is a patchwork of private parcels and National Forest land. Land uses include recreation, hay fields, horse pasture and cattle grazing. Two campgrounds are included within the site. Soils are derived from alluvium and vary with geomorphic position throughout. Soils sampled have a shallow mineral horizon of sandy loam or loam over alluvium.

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 11/17/2004
Designer March, M.A.

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name West Dolores Campground

Site Code S.USCOHP*1538

Boundary Justification

The boundaries incorporate an area, that encompasses the element occurrences and the immediate upstream watershed, that buffers hydrologic processes necessary for the viability of the element occurrences. Natural fluvial disturbances such as seasonal flooding are important to the maintenance of a dynamic, multi-aged cottonwood riparian system (TNC 1996; Hansen et al. 1995). The boundaries also provide a small buffer from nearby social trails, the highway, and hay fields where surface runoff may contribute excess nutrients, sediment and weed invasion. It should be noted that the hydrologic processes necessary to the element are not fully contained by the site boundaries.

Primary Area 1,289.45 Acres 521.83 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

The site supports a good (B-ranked) occurrence of the globally vulnerable (G3/S3) riparian forest, Colorado blue spruce/thinleaf alder (*Picea pungens*/*Alnus incana*), a good (B-ranked) occurrence of the apparently globally secure (G4/S4) riparian forest, narrowleaf cottonwood-Colorado blue spruce/ thinleaf alder (*Populus angustifolia*-*Picea pungens*/*Alnus incana*), and a fair (C-ranked) example of the globally vulnerable (G3/S3) riparian woodland, narrowleaf cottonwood (*Populus angustifolia*)/mixed willow (*Salix* spp.).

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

Hydrologic processes originating outside of the planning boundary, including water quality, quantity, timing and flow must be managed to maintain site viability.

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>
24823	<i>Populus angustifolia</i> - <i>Picea pungens</i> / <i>Alnus incana</i> Woodland	Montane Riparian Forests	G3	S3	No
24518	<i>Picea pungens</i> / <i>Alnus incana</i> Woodland	Montane Riparian Forests	G3	S3	Yes
24808	<i>Populus angustifolia</i> / <i>Salix (monticola, drummondiana, lucida)</i> Woodland	Narrowleaf Cottonwood/Mixed Willows Montane Riparian Forest	G3	S3	No

REFERENCES

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name West Dolores Campground

Site Code S.USCOHP*1538

Reference ID

Full Citation

191166	Hansen, P. L., R. D. Pfister, K. Boggs, B. J. Cook, J. Joy, and D. K. Hinkley. 1995. Classification and management of Montana's riparian and wetland sites. Montana Forest and Conservation Experiment Station, School of Forestry, University of Montana, Miscellaneous Publication No. 54. 646 pp. + posters.
169844	Kittel, G., N. Lederer, M. Condron, and S. Hamer. 1991. Riparian field survey of San Miguel and Dolores River Basins.
192742	March, M.A. 2005. Final Report: Natural Heritage Wetland Inventory of Dolores County. Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Fort Collins, CO.
171753	The Nature Conservancy of Colorado. 1996. Yampa River Site Conservation Plan. The Nature Conservancy, Boulder, CO.
192747	Tweto, O. 1979. Geologic Map of Colorado, 1:500,000. United States Geological Survey, Department of Interior, and Geologic Survey of Colorado, Denver, CO.

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

Site originally designed by Kettler, S.M., 1997-06-10.

VERSION

Version Date 11/17/2004

Version Author March, M.A.

Disclaimer

These data are a product and property of Colorado State University, Colorado Natural Heritage Program (CNHP). These data are strictly "on loan" and should be considered "works in progress". Data maintained in the Colorado Natural Heritage Program database are an integral part of ongoing research at CSU and reflect the observations of many scientists, institutions and our current state of knowledge. These data are acquired from various sources, with varying levels of accuracy, and are continually being updated and revised. Many areas have never been surveyed and the absence of data in any particular geographic area does not necessarily mean that species or ecological communities of concern are not present. These data should not be regarded as a substitute for on-site surveys required for environmental assessments. Absence of evidence is NOT evidence of absence. Absence of any data does not mean that other resources of special concern do not occur, but rather CNHP files do not currently contain information to document this presence. CNHP is not responsible for whether other, non-CNHP data providers have secured landowner permission for data collected.

These data are provided for non-commercial purposes only. Under no circumstances are data to be distributed in any fashion to outside parties. To ensure accurate application of data, tabular and narrative components must be evaluated in conjunction with spatial components. Failure to do so constitutes a misuse of the data. The Colorado Natural Heritage Program shall have no liability or responsibility to the data users, or any other person or entity with respect to liability, loss, or damage caused or alleged to be caused directly or indirectly by the data, including but not limited to any interruption of service, loss of business, anticipatory profits or indirect, special, or consequential damages resulting from the use of operation of the data. Data users hereby agree to hold CNHP, Colorado State University, and the State of Colorado harmless from any claim, demand, cause of action, loss, damage or expense from or related to data users use of or reliance on the data, regardless of the cause or nature thereof, and even in the event that such cause is attributable to the negligence or misconduct of CNHP.

These data are provided on an as-is basis, as-available basis without warranties of any kind, expressed or implied, INCLUDING (BUT NOT LIMITED TO) WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY, FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE, AND NON-INFRINGEMENT. Although CNHP maintains high standards of data quality control, CNHP, Colorado State University, and the State of Colorado further expressly disclaim any warranty that the data are error-free or current as of the date supplied