

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name West Dolores River at Deadman Draw

Site Code S.USCOHP*25392

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 2218 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 374445N
State Colorado Longitude 1080838W

Quad Code Quad Name

37108-F2 Clyde Lake
37108-G2 Groundhog Mountain

County

Dolores (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name

14030002 Upper Dolores

SITE DESCRIPTION

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

Site Description

West Dolores River at Deadman Draw site surrounds the West Dolores River from Geyser Creek to Johnny Bull Creek. The West Dolores River flows through a moderately wide valley at the base of steep slopes. The river is moderately sinuous with large point bars, beaver enhanced wetlands, and a wide floodplain. Tall, mature clusters of Colorado blue spruce (*Picea pungens*) are scattered throughout the site. Strapleaf willow (*Salix ligulifolia*) and mountain willow (*Salix monticola*) dominate the large riparian shrubland. Thinleaf alder (*Alnus incana*) is abundant with associated species such as Geyer's willow (*Salix geyeriana*), whitestem gooseberry (*Ribes inerme*), roundleaf snowberry (*Symphoricarpos rotundifolius*), twinberry honeysuckle (*Lonicera involucrata*), and river hawthorn (*Crataegus rivularis*). The herbaceous understory is dominated by non-native grasses such as Kentucky bluegrass (*Poa pratensis*), timothy (*Phleum pratense*), and smooth brome (*Bromus inermis*). Other native graminoids include Baltic rush (*Juncus balticus*), beaked sedge (*Carex utriculata*), small wing sedge (*Carex microptera*), and redbtop (*Agrostis* sp.). Mesic forbs are abundant including goldenglow (*Rucbeckia ampla*), false Solomon's seal (*Maianthemum stellatum*), Virginia strawberry (*Fragaria virginiana*), Richardson's geranium (*Geranium richardsonii*), large leafed avens (*Geum macrophyllum*), fleabane (*Erigeron* sp.), Jacob's ladder (*Polemonium foliosissimum*), and Fendler's cowbane (*Oxypolis fendleri*). Scouring rush horsetail (*Hippochaete hyemalis* subsp. *affinis*) and field horsetail (*Equisetum arvense*) occupy the bare gravelly soils within the floodplain. Common dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*) occurs frequently in the herbaceous understory as well as other weedy species including black medic (*Medicago lupulina*), red clover (*Trifolium pratense*), and oxeye daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*). The area is used for recreation including hiking, camping and fishing. Agricultural fields are downstream of the site support dense stands of oxeye daisy. Soils are derived from alluvium and vary throughout the site. Soil sampled has a shallow mineral horizon of clay loam with little organic matter, 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 11/11/2004
Designer March, M.A.

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Boundary Justification

The boundaries incorporate an area that encompasses the element occurrences, and immediate upstream watershed that buffer hydrologic processes necessary for the viability of the element occurrences. Natural fluvial processes such as seasonal flooding, sediment deposition and beaver activity will help maintain succession and viable populations of the elements along West Dolores River (Hansen et al. 1995; The Nature Conservancy 1996; Sanderson and Kettler 1996; Cooper and Cottrell 1990). The boundary also provides a buffer from trails, the road, hay meadows, and campsites where surface runoff may contribute excess nutrients, sediment and weed invasion. It should be noted that all hydrologic processes necessary for wetland viability are not contained within the site boundaries.

Primary Area 376.34 Acres 152.30 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

The site supports a fair (C-ranked) occurrence of the globally imperiled to globally vulnerable (G2G3/S2S3) riparian willow carr, *Salix ligulifolia* shrubland.

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

Oxeye daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*) is dense on private property adjacent to the willow shrubland.

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>
24155	<i>Salix ligulifolia</i> Shrubland	Montane Willow Carr	G2G3	S2S3	Yes

REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
191388	Cooper, D. J., and T. R. Cottrell. 1990. Classification of riparian vegetation in the northern Colorado Front Range. Unpublished report prepared for The Nature Conservancy, Colorado Field Office, Boulder. 115 pp.
191166	Hansen, P. L., R. D. Pfister, K. Boggs, B. J. Cook, J. Joy, and D. K. Hinckley. 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.
192742	March, M.A. 2005. Final Report: Natural Heritage Wetland Inventory of Dolores County. Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Fort Collins, CO.
158563	Sanderson, J. and S. Kettler. 1996. A preliminary wetland vegetation classification for a portion of Colorado's West Slope. Unpublished final report submitted to the Colorado Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Fort Collins.
171753	The Nature Conservancy of Colorado. 1996. Yampa River Site Conservation Plan. The Nature Conservancy, Boulder, CO.

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ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date 11/11/2004

Version Author March, M.A.

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