

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Blue River North of Silverthorne

Site Code S.USCOHP*10264

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 333 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 394004N
State Colorado Longitude 1060517W

Quad Code Quad Name

39106-F1 Dillon

County

Summit (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name

14010002 Blue

SITE DESCRIPTION

| | | | | |
|--------------------------|----------|-------------|----------|---------------|
| Minimum Elevation | 8,534.00 | Feet | 2,601.00 | Meters |
| Maximum Elevation | 8,700.00 | Feet | 2,652.00 | Meters |

Site Description

The Blue River-North of Silverthorne site is located 1.5 miles north of the I-70/Silverthorne interchange. Several intermittent and perennial streams, including Hamilton and Bushee Creeks drain into the Blue River within the site. The site consists of several ponds, created by a gravel mining operation. It supports a fair example of a montane riparian willow carr (*Salix geyeriana*-*Salix monticola*/*Calamagrostis canadensis*) and a fair example of a subalpine riparian shrubland (*Betula glandulosa*/mesic forb-mesic graminoid). There are nesting osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) within the site. There is a housing subdivision to the east that utilizes the area for open space. The site contains several housing developments, a sewage treatment plant, gravel mines, and hay fields. There are several intact, vigorous stands of two montane riparian communities (*Populus angustifolia*-*Picea pungens*/*Alder incana* and *Picea pungens*/*Alder incana*). The Blue River Ranch Lakes are located adjacent to the Blue River at the north end of Silverthorne. The Blue River does receive some flooding, but the floodflow is controlled by Dillon Reservoir. The site is approximately 600 acres ranging in elevation from 2560 m (8,534 ft.) to 2610 m (8,700 ft.).

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 12/09/1997
Designer Culver, D.R.

Boundary Justification

The boundary drawn encompasses the riparian communities which includes a portion within residential and commercial developments. Lower portions near the Town of Silverthorne are included within the site to provide a buffer. The boundaries include all four ponds the area between the ponds and the Blue River, and a buffer of 1,000 feet to protect the site from direct impacts e.g., development, water diversions.

Primary Area 1,075.64 Acres 435.30 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B4: Moderate Biodiversity Significance

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Biodiversity Significance Comments

The Blue River-North of Silverthorne site supports fair (C-ranked) examples of two montane riparian communities (Populus angustifolia-Picea pungens/Alder incana and Populus angustifolia/Alder incana). The Blue River Ranch Lakes consist of fair (C-ranked) examples of a globally rare Montane willow carr (Salix geyeriana-Salix monticola/Calamagrostis canadensis) and a state rare subalpine riparian shrubland (Betula glandulosa/mesic forb-mesic graminoid). The site also contains a series of ponds (human-made) that provide habitat for Osprey (Pandion haliaetus), a U.S. Forest Service sensitive species, and several common waterfowl. Eight migrating White-faced ibises (Plegadis chihi) were observed on the lakes on the date of the survey (June 8, 1997).

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> |
| 24489 | <i>Salix geyeriana</i> - <i>Salix monticola</i> / <i>Calamagrostis canadensis</i> Shrubland | Montane Willow Carrs | G3 | S3 | Yes |
| 24497 | <i>Betula nana</i> / Mesic Forbs - Mesic Graminoids Shrubland | Subalpine Riparian Shrubland | G3G4 | S3 | Yes |
| 24541 | <i>Populus angustifolia</i> / <i>Alnus incana</i> Woodland | Montane Riparian Forest | G3 | S3 | Yes |
| 24823 | <i>Populus angustifolia</i> - <i>Picea pungens</i> / <i>Alnus incana</i> Woodland | Montane Riparian Forests | G3 | S3 | Yes |

REFERENCES

| <u>Reference ID</u> | <u>Full Citation</u> |
|---------------------|---|
| 165258 | Culver, D.R. 1997. Colorado Natural Heritage Program Wetland Assessments for the 1997 Summit County Wetlands Inventory. |

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date 12/09/1997
Version Author Culver, D.R.

Disclaimer

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