

# Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Crooked Creek Spring

Site Code S.USCOHP8\*3743

## IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 427 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 391618N  
State Colorado Longitude 1055859W

Quad Code Quad Name

39105-C8 Como

County

Park (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name

10190001 South Platte Headwaters

## SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	9,800.00	Feet	2,987.00	Meters
Maximum Elevation	10,200.00	Feet	3,109.00	Meters

### Site Description

Clear Creek Spring appears to be only one of several fens that occur within the area one mile west of Red Hill. As described the site contains the only fen known to occur northwest of the Circle V Bar (Silverheels) Ranch. Other fens are suspected to occur to the northeast and southeast. The fen that is the focus of this site is found just south of Clear Creek and is partially fed by a small, unnamed creek. Tall willows (mostly *Salix monticola*) characterize the upper edge of the fen, but these grade quickly into the hummock/swale system that typifies South Park's extreme rich fens. Many elements are present here, but in very small occurrences. The occurrences may be enlarged with survey of the Silverheels Ranch, but at present the site has a high biodiversity significance ranking despite the presence of globally imperiled elements because of the size of these occurrences. Also, the lower part of the fen dried up and presumably elements disappeared when a large ditch was dug across the bottom of the slope.

### 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 01/26/1996

Designer Sanderson, J.S.

### Boundary Justification

The site boundary includes the entire known fen area and an area of dried fen at the base where the water supply has been cut off by a ditch. The boundary also includes a buffer of 500-1,000 feet to protect from direct impacts from vehicles, cattle, etc. The elements on this site require features of water supply that extend beyond the site and may include Crooked Creek and the creek feeding the west side of the site.

Primary Area 202.37 Acres 81.90 Hectares

## SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

### Biodiversity Significance Comments

The site supports a fair (C-ranked) occurrence of a globally imperiled (G2/S1) plant community, *Kobresia simpliciuscula* - *Trichophorum pumilum*. The occurrence has been given a fair rank due to its small size;

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however, if surrounding areas are surveyed, this site could prove to be more significant than current information reflects. The site also supports a fair (C-ranked) occurrence of a globally imperiled (G2/S2) plant, *Ptilagrostis porteri*. Fair and poor occurrences of globally common but state rare plants are also within the site.

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>
21527	<i>Trichophorum pumilum</i>	little bulrush	G5	S2	No
22057	<i>Primula egaliksensis</i>	Greenland primrose	G4	S2	No
19684	<i>Ptilagrostis porteri</i>	Porter feathergrass	G2	S2	Yes
21314	<i>Carex livida</i>	livid sedge	G5	S1	No
24977	<i>Kobresia simpliciuscula</i> - <i>Trichophorum pumilum</i> Saturated Herbaceous Vegetation	Extreme Rich Fen	G2	S1	Yes
23592	<i>Carex scirpoidea</i>	Canadian single-spike sedge	G5	S2	No
17508	<i>Packera pauciflora</i>	few-flowered ragwort	G4G5	S1S2	No
22645	<i>Salix candida</i>	hoary or silver willow	G5	S2	No

## REFERENCES

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

## ADDITIONAL TOPICS

## Additional Topics

No Data

## VERSION

<b>Version Date</b>	02/15/2001
<b>Version Author</b>	Spackman, S.C.

## Disclaimer

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