

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Electra Lake

Site Code S.USCOHP*4594

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 1932 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 373357N
State Colorado Longitude 1074807W

Quad Code Quad Name
37107-E7 Electra Lake

County
La Plata (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name
14080104 Animas

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	8,320.00 Feet	2,536.00 Meters
Maximum Elevation	8,800.00 Feet	2,682.00 Meters

Site Description

This site surrounds Electra Lake, a large reservoir fed by Elbert and Little Cascade Creeks. The plant community documented at this site is a representative example of a common mixed montane forest, typical of large areas of the San Juan National Forest in La Plata County. It is co-dominated by white fir (*Abies concolor*), Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), aspen (*Populus tremuloides*), and ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*). Understory species include Rocky mountain maple (*Acer glabrum*), mountain lover (*Paxistima myrsinites*), sweet cicely (*Osmorhiza depauperata*), Oregon grape (*Mahonia repens*), common juniper (*Juniperus communis*), false solomonseal (*Maianthemum stellatum*), heartleaf arnica (*Arnica cordifolia*), ragweed sagebrush (*Artemisia franserioides*), Richardson's geranium (*Geranium richardsonii*), muttongrass (*Poa fendleriana*), elk sedge (*Carex geyeri*), twinberry honeysuckle (*Distegia involucreta*). The community is similar to white fir/Oregon grape and Douglas-fir /mountain lover which occur is somewhat drier sites. New Mexican cliff fern (*Woodsia neomexicana*) was found in crevices of rock outcrops on the east side of the lake. These are mapped as 1700 to 1800 million year old metamorphic gneisses derived from volcanoes. Two bald eagle nests are documented from the site.

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 06/01/1996
Designer Loar, A.M. and C.C. Fleming

Boundary Justification

The planning boundary encompasses all known nests in the area, adjacent foraging habitat and a small buffer around the lake. Nesting sites are provided a buffer of approximately 1,000 feet. The boundary should be adequate to protect nests from direct disturbance and to maintain adjacent foraging areas.

Primary Area 3,860.11 Acres 1,562.14 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B5: General Biodiversity Interest

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Biodiversity Significance Comments

The site supports an unranked occurrence of the Bald Eagle (G4/S1B). Breeding occurrences are rare in the state.

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>
21249	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	Bald Eagle	G5	S1B,S3N	No
21249	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	Bald Eagle	G5	S1B,S3N	Yes

REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
184581	Lyon, P. 2003. Colorado Natural Heritage Program La Plata County Biological Assessment.

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

Other Heritage elements: Woodsia neomexicana (New Mexico cliff fern), G4/S2, B-ranked. Abies concolor/Acer glabrum (mixed montane forest), G4/S3, B-ranked.

VERSION

Version Date 01/28/2004

Version Author Lyon, M.J.

Disclaimer

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