

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Fountain Creek Springs at Pinon

Site Code S.USCOHP*22038

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 1147 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 382940N
State Colorado Longitude 1043632W

Quad Code Quad Name

38104-D5 Pinon

County

Pueblo (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name

11020003 Fountain

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	5,100.00	Feet	1,554.00	Meters
Maximum Elevation	5,120.00	Feet	1,561.00	Meters

Site Description

A spring-fed marsh on the west bank of Fountain Creek supports about 25 acres of Nebraska sedge (*Carex nebrascensis*) and 5 acres of bulrush (*Scirpus tabernaemontani*-*Scirpus acutus*). The bulrush occurs in the wettest area and surrounds small open water ponds. The ponds support small fishes and frogs. Birds observed within the wetland include Mallard, American Avocet, Green Heron, and Red-winged Blackbird. The marsh has been drained in the past to provide pasture for grazing; however, the native community returns despite the attempts at alteration. The bulrush portion of the wetland also supports cattail (*Typha angustifolia*), spikerush (*Eleocharis* sp.), duckweed (*Lemna minor*), speedwell (*Veronica* sp.), water parsnip (*Berula erecta*). Watercress (*Nasturtium officinale*), generally considered a Eurasian species (CNHP, 2001), also grows in the ponds. The sedge meadow portion of the wetland also supports threesquare bulrush (*Scirpus pungens*), Baltic rush (*Juncus balticus*), spikerush (*Eleocharis* sp.), saltgrass (*Distichlis spicata*), western wheatgrass (*Pascopyrum smithii*), and foxtail barley (*Hordeum jubatum*). The sedge meadow has been seeded in the past to increase the forage value and clover (*Trifolium pratense*) makes up about 5 percent cover in the drier portions of the meadow. Fountain Creek supports a broken band of plains cottonwood with coyote willow (*Populus deltoides*-(*Salix amygdaloides*)/*Salix exigua*) heavily invaded by tamarisk and Russian olive, two non-native species. Flooding within the creek has changed the riparian vegetation lately, removing some of the cottonwood forest and widening and downcutting the banks. Irrigated agriculture occurs along the creek within about a mile band. Privately operated and maintained ditches divert the creek to the irrigated fields.

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 06/15/2001

Designer Doyle, G.A.

Boundary Justification

The boundary encompasses the wetland and a small amount of the surrounding uplands on the west bank of Fountain Creek. The groundwater recharge area for the creek probably includes the Fountain Creek floodplain and may include Youngs Hollow to the west. The recharge area for the springs is not included within the site.

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Primary Area 207.47 Acres

83.96 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B5: General Biodiversity Interest

Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site contains a fair (C-ranked) occurrence of a globally vulnerable (G4 S2S3) bulrush wetland (*Scirpus tabernaemontani*-*Scirpus acutus*), and a fair (C-ranked) wet meadow (*Carex nebrascensis*)vulnerable in Colorado.

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 Rank</u>	<u>State Rank</u>	<u>Driving Site Rank</u>
<u>State ID</u>	<u>State Scientific Name</u>	<u>State Common Name</u>			
24564	<i>Schoenoplectus acutus</i> - <i>Typha latifolia</i> - (<i>Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani</i>) Sandhills Herbaceous Vegetation	Great Plains Marsh	G4	S2S3	Yes
22403	<i>Carex nebrascensis</i> Herbaceous Vegetation	Wet Meadows	G4	S3	Yes

REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
169085	Doyle, G.A. 2000. Colorado Natural Heritage Program Field Survey of Wetland and Riparian Areas in Pueblo and El Paso Counties.
162855	Doyle, G.A., J. Gionfriddo, D. Anderson, and D. Culver. 2000. Final Report: Survey of Critical Wetlands and Riparian Areas in El Paso and Pueblo Counties, Colorado. Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Fort Collins, CO.

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date 09/16/2003

Version Author Spackman, S.C.

Disclaimer

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