

# Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Fremont's Fen

Site Code S.USCOHP8\*3237

## IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 611 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 392157N  
State Colorado Longitude 1055136W

<u>Quad Code</u>	<u>Quad Name</u>
39105-C7	Milligan Lakes
39105-C8	Como
39105-D7	Jefferson

### County

Park (CO)

<u>Watershed Code</u>	<u>Watershed Name</u>
10190001	South Platte Headwaters

## SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	9,500.00 Feet	2,896.00 Meters
Maximum Elevation	9,800.00 Feet	2,987.00 Meters

### Site Description

The core of this site is an area nearly one mile long and about 1/5th of a mile wide containing large hummocks dominated by the *Kobresia myosuroides* - *Thalictrum alpinum* plant association. Porter feathergrass (*Ptilagrostis porteri*) occurs sparsely on the eastern end of this community, but toward the west it dominates many hummocks. The western edge of the intact hummock expanse is wetter than the rest and provides habitat for little bulrush (*Trichophorum pumilum*) and other extreme rich fen plant species. The elements occur on the south side of what was formerly (before peat mining took place) a very large peatland. It is likely that many other extreme rich fen elements (e.g., silver willow, *Salix candida*) were once present in abundance. Extant elements are up-gradient of the mined area and it appears that they were not adversely affected by the mining.

### 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 11/16/1995  
Designer Sanderson, J.S.

### Boundary Justification

The boundary drawn includes the entire extant and former peatland, encompassing the area of groundwater discharge that creates and supports the fen. It includes the mined area for two reasons. First, some activities in the mined area, such as creation of ponds, could affect the elements to the south. Second, the mined area may have restoration potential, perhaps allowing for recolonization of the area by the existing elements. The boundary also includes a buffer to prevent direct impacts and to minimize indirect impacts from areas adjacent to the wetlands.

Primary Area 999.81 Acres 404.61 Hectares

## SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B2: Very High Biodiversity Significance

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## Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site contains a good (B-ranked) occurrence of an extreme rich fen plant community ( *Kobresia myosuroides* - *Thalictrum alpinum* ) which is globally imperiled (G2/S1). There is also a good (B-ranked) occurrence of the globally imperiled (G2/S2) Porter feathergrass ( *Ptilagrostis porteri* ), a fair (C-ranked) occurrence of the globally imperiled (G2G3/S2) pale blue-eyed grass ( *Sisyrinchium pallidum* ) and fair occurrences of state rare plants. As of 1995, D. Cooper believes this is the largest occurrence of *Ptilagrostis porteri* (pers. comm. to J. Sanderson), and the results of J. Sanderson's 1995 field survey of South Park support this statement. This site also contains the largest and best occurrence of the *Kobresia myosuroides* - *Thalictrum alpinum* extreme rich fen plant association. South Park may be the only location of this community; and even in South Park, it is well-developed in only a few sites.

Other Values Rank No Data

## Other Values Comments

No Data

## LAND MANAGEMENT ISSUES

### Land Use Comments

It is not known what C.D.O.W. or the City of Thornton plan for their property.

### Natural Hazard Comments

No Data

### Exotics Comments

No Data

### Offsite

No Data

### Information Needs

Need updated information on the pale blue-eyed grass occurrence.

## 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>
23592	<i>Carex scirpoidea</i>	Canadian single-spike sedge	G5	S2	No
17508	<i>Packera pauciflora</i>	few-flowered ragwort	G4G5	S1S2	No
21615	<i>Sisyrinchium pallidum</i>	pale blue-eyed grass	G2G3	S2	No
22057	<i>Primula egaliksensis</i>	Greenland primrose	G4	S2	No
19684	<i>Ptilagrostis porteri</i>	Porter feathergrass	G2	S2	Yes
24980	<i>Kobresia myosuroides</i> - <i>Thalictrum alpinum</i> Herbaceous Vegetation	Extreme Rich Fens	G2	S1	Yes
21527	<i>Trichophorum pumilum</i>	little bulrush	G5	S2	No

## REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
176589	Cooper, D. 1995. Personal communication to the Colorado Natural Heritage Program.
159928	Cooper, D. J. 1990. Ecological Studies of Wetlands in South Park, Colorado: Classification, Functional Analysis, Rare Species Inventory, and the Effects of Removing Irrigation. Report prepared for: Park County and U.S. EPA Region VIII. Boulder Co. 94pp.
164145	Fertig, W. and G. Jones. 1992. Plant communities and rare plant species of the Swamp Lake Botanical Area, Clark's Fork Ranger District, Shoshone National Forest. Unpublished report prepared for Shoshone National Forest, Challenge cost-share agreement no. CSA-2-91-14-0001.
193488	Nichols, G. 2001. Personal communication to the Colorado Natural Heritage Program.
159570	Weber, W. A. and R. C. Wittmann. 1992. Catalog of The Colorado Flora: A Biodiversity Baseline. University Press of Colorado, Niwot, CO.

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## ADDITIONAL TOPICS

### Additional Topics

No Data

## VERSION

Version Date 02/15/2001

Version Author Spackman, S.C.

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