

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Gilley Lake

Site Code S.USCOHP*3967

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 1962 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 395418N
State Colorado Longitude 1073831W

Quad Code Quad Name

39107-H6 Big Beaver Reservoir
39107-H5 Buford

County

Rio Blanco (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name

14050005 Upper White

SITE DESCRIPTION

| | | |
|-------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Minimum Elevation | 7,100.00 Feet | 2,164.08 Meters |
| Maximum Elevation | 8,600.00 Feet | 2,621.28 Meters |

Site Description

The Gilley Lake site is located in the White River National Forest, south of Buford. It encompasses several lakes: Seventh, Beaver, Cabin, Shadow, Stump and Gilley. Vaughn Creek flows to the south of the lake complex towards its confluence with North Elk Creek. The riparian area consists of Colorado blue spruce (*Picea pungens*) with narrowleaf cottonwood (*Populus angustifolia*), thinleaf alder (*Alnus incana*), and willows (*Salix boothii*, *S. drummondiana*, *S. monticola*). The uplands consist of subalpine fir (*Abies lasiocarpa*) and Engelmann spruce (*Picea engelmannii*) on the north-facing slopes and quaking aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) on the drier slopes above the riparian and lake areas. Herbaceous wetlands are associated along the lake shores. Beaver activity is evident in the riparian area and floodplain.

Key Environmental Factors

Geology is classified as arkosic sandstone, conglomerate, shale, and limestone of the Minturn Formation of the Pennsylvanian Age.

Climate Description

In the County, summers are warm or hot in most valleys but are much cooler in the mountains. Winters are cold in the mountains. Summer thunderstorms are prevalent; of the total precipitation, 55% usually falls between April and September. Average seasonal snowfall is 74.4 inches, average day time temperature is 45 degrees and average precipitation is 16.5 inches for Meeker between 1948 -2007 (Western Regional Climate Center 2008).

Land Use History

No Data

Cultural Features

No Data

SITE DESIGN

Site Map P - Partial Mapped Date 02/07/2008
Designer Culver, D.R.

Boundary Justification

This planning boundary is intended to maintain water quality by including the entirety of the small watershed above the lakes and also the significant riparian communities. Beaver Lake is included as adjacent contiguous habitat. The boundary encompasses both private and public lands, however, only public lands were surveyed.

Primary Area 1,316.94 Acres 532.95 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

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Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site contains a good (B-ranked) occurrence of globally vulnerable (G3/S3) *Salix boothii* / mesic forb riparian shrubland and an excellent to good (AB-ranked) occurrence of *Populus angustifolia* - *Picea pungens* / *Alnus incana*, a globally vulnerable (G3/S3) riparian woodland. The uplands consist of a fair (C-ranked) occurrence of a globally secure (G5/S5) *Abies lasiocarpa* / *Alnus incana* forest. There are historical occurrences of the state rare (G5/S3) mossy valvata (*Valvata sincera*).

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

Hydrological processes originating outside of the planning boundary, including water quality, quantity, and timing must be managed to maintain population and community viability.

Information Needs

Upslope wetlands and ponds should be surveyed for additional populations of mossy valvata.

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> |
| 17909 | <i>Valvata sincera</i> | Mossy Valvata | G5 | S3 | No |
| 17909 | <i>Valvata sincera</i> | Mossy Valvata | G5 | S3 | No |
| 24823 | <i>Populus angustifolia</i> - <i>Picea pungens</i> / <i>Alnus incana</i> Woodland | Montane Riparian Forests | G3 | S3 | Yes |
| 24684 | <i>Abies lasiocarpa</i> / <i>Alnus incana</i> Forest | Montane Riparian Forests | G5 | S5 | No |
| 24734 | <i>Salix boothii</i> / Mesic Forbs Shrubland | Booth's Willow/Mesic Forb | G3 | S3 | Yes |

REFERENCES

| <u>Reference ID</u> | <u>Full Citation</u> |
|---------------------|--|
| 195026 | Culver, D., J. Huggins and P. Lyon. 2008. Final Report: Significant Biological Resources in Rio Blanco County, CO. Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Fort Collins, CO. |
| 195034 | WRCC. 2008. Western Regional Climate Center. Division of Atmospheric Sciences, Desert Research Institute. Reno, Nevada. < http://www.wrcc.dri.edu >. |

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

Original site design by Ellingson, A.R. 1996-04-10.

VERSION

Version Date 02/07/2008
Version Author Culver, D.R.

Disclaimer

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