

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Gold Hill

Site Code S.USCOHP*10293

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 332 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 393226N
State Colorado Longitude 1060434W

Quad Code Quad Name

39106-E1 Frisco

County

Watershed Code Watershed Name

14010002 Blue

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation - Feet - Meters
Maximum Elevation - Feet - Meters

Site Description

Within the foothills of the Ten Mile Range, east of Ten Mile Peak, the Gold Hill site includes a mosaic of community types including shrublands, slope wetlands, riparian communities, quaking aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) stands, and lodgepole pine (*Pinus contorta*) forests. The upper slopes of Gold Hill, summing at 10,315 feet, are dominated by lodgepole pine with scattered subalpine fir (*Abies lasiocarpa*). The understory is sparsely vegetated and dominated by heart leaved arnica (*Arnica cordifolia*). The ground cover is thick with lodgepole pine needles and a cobbly granite soil. The shrublands are dominated by sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*). Riparian areas are dominated by willows (*Salix planifolia*, *S. brachycarpa*, and *S. geyeriana*). Northern Goshawks were observed on numerous occasions during 1997 in this site. It is likely that the goshawks rely on Barton Gulch, in the southern portion of the site, as a primary nesting and hunting area. Barton Gulch has several roads, hay meadows, human-made ponds, and irrigation ditches as well as two beaver created ponds/wetlands and willow carrs that are considered to be locally significant wetlands. The far eastern portion of the site has been impacted by gravel mining but nonetheless supports some locally significant beaver created wetlands, willow carrs, and slope wetlands. This site includes approximately 3500 acres.

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 10/21/1997

Designer Fayette, K.K.

Boundary Justification

The boundary is drawn to protect the occurrences from direct impacts, and to provide additional suitable habitat where the elements of concern can become established over time. The site includes representation from all of the major community types in the local area, primarily the lodgepole pine (*Pinus contorta*) forests and the riparian communities that are known to support elements of concern. The boundary also includes a portion of North Barton Gulch which is likely to provide nesting and foraging habitat for the Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*). Additionally, the boundary incorporates two locally significant wetlands (please see

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Volume 2, Whatley Gulch and Braddock Flats). The boundary was drawn following a 1997 site visit by a CNHP wetland ecologist, and using 1988 National Aerial Photography Program 1:40,000 infrared aerial photographs.

Primary Area 3,238.67 Acres 1,310.65 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

The site supports a good (B-ranked) occurrence of a significant, globally vulnerable (G3/S3) *Populus tremuloides* / *Alnus incana* montane riparian forest. There are also extant occurrences of the globally vulnerable (G3G4/S3) *Betula nana* / mesic forbs - mesic graminoids riparian shrubland and Northern Goshawks (*Accipiter gentilis*) have been observed in the area and should be considered an important addition to this 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

Element	Global Rank	State Rank	Driving Site Rank
State ID	State Scientific Name	State Common Name	
24497	<i>Betula nana</i> / Mesic Forbs - Mesic Graminoids Shrubland	Subalpine Riparian Shrubland	G3G4 S3 No
24911	<i>Populus tremuloides</i> / <i>Alnus incana</i> Forest	Montane Riparian Forests	G3 S3 Yes
24497	<i>Betula nana</i> / Mesic Forbs - Mesic Graminoids Shrubland	Subalpine Riparian Shrubland	G3G4 S3 No
24497	<i>Betula nana</i> / Mesic Forbs - Mesic Graminoids Shrubland	Subalpine Riparian Shrubland	G3G4 S3 No

REFERENCES

Reference ID	Full Citation
-	No Data

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date 10/21/1997
Version Author Fayette, K.K.

Disclaimer

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