

# Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Granite Lake

Site Code S.USCOHP\*26774

## IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 2422 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 373709N  
State Colorado Longitude 1072010W

Quad Code Quad Name  
37107-E3 Granite Lake

County  
Hinsdale (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name  
14080101 Upper San Juan

## SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	10,600.00 Feet	3,230.88 Meters
Maximum Elevation	10,800.00 Feet	3,291.84 Meters

### Site Description

The wetland is situated along an open basin at the convergence of two small draws creating an ephemeral tributary of Granite Lake. The wetland contains a few narrow, deep channels, with no apparent disturbances. The northwestern edge contains a small fen wetland with perennial, groundwater-fed hydrology. Soils are composed of histosols which are predominantly dry along surfaces with saturated patches and small rivulets throughout. General geology varies throughout the area with predominant geology consisting of igneous rocks of the Tertiary Age (Stevens 1974, Tweto 1979). Surrounding uplands consist of an open canopy of Engelmann spruce (*Picea engelmannii*) and subalpine fir (*Abies lasiocarpa*) woodlands with rocky, xeric understory. The main anthropogenic disturbance is an adjacent pack trail. This trail may act as a vector for the introduction of exotic species. Natural disturbances include spring flooding and wildlife use. The wetland occurs as a dense short shrubland dominated by diamondleaf willow (*Salix planifolia*) thickets. The herbaceous understory is dominated by bluejoint (*Calamagrostis canadensis*) which is most common along microtopographic rises and drier areas. Other common graminoids include tufted hairgrass (*Deschampsia caespitosa*) and water sedge (*Carex aquatilis*). Common forbs include Rocky Mountain hemlockparsley (*Conioselinum scopulorum*), redpod stonecrop (*Rhodiola rhodantha*), white marsh marigold (*Caltha leptosepala*), and American alpine speedwell (*Veronica wormskjoldii*). Edges of the wetland consist of a mosaic of dense shrubs with openings dominated by mesic herbaceous vegetation. A small, inundated fen wetland located along the northwestern edge of site is dominated by fewflower spikerush (*Eleocharis quinqueflora*) and a water sedge community. No exotic species were observed in the wetland. *Poa* sp. found in the wetland was identified as the native Kentucky bluegrass (*Poa agassizensis*).

### Key Environmental Factors

Key environmental factors influencing species composition of the wetland are moderate gradient, subalpine elevation, groundwater discharge, and seasonal flooding.

### Climate Description

Climate and weather tend to follow typical patterns of the San Juan Mountains of Colorado being generally xeric throughout the year with warm spring weather causing snowmelt flooding, wet summers, and a late summer "monsoon" season.

### Land Use History

No Data

### Cultural Features

No Data

## SITE DESIGN

Site Map Y - Yes Mapped Date 10/15/2006  
Designer Jones, J.R.

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## Boundary Justification

Boundaries include 1,000 ft of uplands to buffer from impacts to site condition (Keate 2004). This buffer accounts for natural ecological processes important for the maintenance of wetland elements such as seasonal flooding, groundwater recharge, surface flows, and sediment deposition. However, the boundary does not include all hydrological processes necessary to the maintenance of site hydrology and upstream activities such as deforestation, improper livestock grazing, development, or water diversion could be detrimental to the site.

Primary Area 62.76 Acres 25.40 Hectares

## SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B4: Moderate Biodiversity Significance

## Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site is drawn for an excellent (A-ranked) occurrence of the globally apparently secure (G4/S2S3) diamondleaf willow / bluejoint (*Salix planifolia* / *Calamagrostis canadensis*) shrubland.

Other Values Rank No Data

## Other Values Comments

No Data

## LAND MANAGEMENT ISSUES

## Land Use Comments

Predominant land use is recreation.

## Natural Hazard Comments

No Data

## Exotics Comments

No exotics were observed.

## 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>
24805	<i>Salix planifolia</i> / <i>Calamagrostis canadensis</i> Shrubland	Subalpine Riparian Willow Carr	G4	S2S3	Yes

## REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
192813	Keate, Nancy S. 2004. Bibliography of Impacts to Wetlands II - Draft - revised - Jan 2004. Utah Wetland Outreach, Wildlife Resources, Utah Department of Natural Resources.
194565	Neid, S.L. and J.R. Jones. 2008. Final Report: Survey of Critical Wetlands and Riparian Areas in Hinsdale County. Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Fort Collins, CO.
194566	Steven, T.A. 1974. Geologic Map of the Durango Quadrangle, Southwestern Colorado. United States Geological Survey, Department of Interior, Reston, VA.
192747	Tweto, O. 1979. Geologic Map of Colorado, 1:500,000. United States Geological Survey, Department of Interior, and Geologic Survey of Colorado, Denver, CO.

## ADDITIONAL TOPICS

## Additional Topics

No Data

## VERSION

Version Date 10/15/2006

Version Author Jones, J.R.

## Disclaimer

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