

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name High Creek

Site Code S.USWRO1*1689

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 1365 Site Class PCA
Site Alias High Creek Fen
Site Alias High Creek at Warm Spring

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 390732N
State Colorado Longitude 1060004W

Quad Code Quad Name

39105-A8	Garo
39105-B8	Fairplay East
39106-A1	Jones Hill
39106-B1	Fairplay West

County

Park (CO)

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

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	9,000.00	Feet	2,743.00	Meters
Maximum Elevation	10,200.00	Feet	3,109.00	Meters

Site Description

High Creek is east of the Mosquito Range foothills in a depression at the base of several large glacial outwash fans that are fed by ground water flowing from the Mosquito Range through alluvial gravels. This fen is the most ecologically diverse, floristically rich fen known in the Southern Rocky Mountains. It contains more rare plant species than any other wetland location in Colorado, and includes 14 plant species that are rare in Colorado. It is one of the largest and most intact wetlands left in South Park; other wetlands in the area have been destroyed or greatly altered by water diversions or peat mining. High Creek Fen is owned and managed by The Nature Conservancy of Colorado. In its entirety, this site includes High Creek Fen, and also includes lands that stretch for several miles upstream along High Creek. It includes Warm Springs at the upstream end of the site. Much of the width of the riparian zone in the upper reaches of the site is peatland, and along almost the entire length springs (groundwater discharge zones) replenish the surface and stream. Groundwater discharge is especially common along the west edge of the riparian area along the base of the hills. In the upper (upstream) portions of the site the occurrences of Canadian single-spike sedge (*Carex scirpoidea*) and few-flowered ragwort (*Packera pauciflora*) are quite large, but adjacent to a mined area and grazed. The best-developed extreme rich fen elements (both communities and plants) occur (farther downstream) at the base of a hill on the west side of High Creek, sandwiched between the hill and the creek, but also occur in patches in other areas in the Warm Springs area. This occurrence is in very nice shape, having been protected from most grazing impacts by the hill on the west and by the creek and boggy ground to the east.

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 12/15/1999
Designer Culver, D.R.

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Boundary Justification

This site was designed to encompass all elements known to occur in High Creek Fen system, and an area on the upstream end of the site that had peat removed. Boundaries also include adjacent natural wetlands, but do not include much of the irrigated areas to the east of the site. The boundary is drawn to incorporate an area where natural processes (such as groundwater recharge, species reproduction) function in a manner that maintains viable populations of the elements associated with the fen. However, all hydrological processes necessary to the elements are not fully contained in the boundary. Upstream activities that alter hydrology or sediment loads could detrimentally affect the elements.

Primary Area 5,694.04 Acres 2,304.31 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B2: Very High Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site is rich with state and globally imperiled plants and plant communities. The site supports excellent (A-ranked) occurrences of two globally imperiled (G2/S1) plant communities, *Kobresia myosuroides* - *Thalictrum alpinum* and *Kobresia simpliciuscula* - *Trichophorum pumilum*, and several other globally and state rare elements. It is the most extensive and highest quality example of extreme rich fens in all of South Park. It also contains nine rare aquatic and semi-aquatic macroinvertebrates not yet found at any other extreme rich fen. All but the upper, mined portion of the site is in good condition. In the upper portions of the site the element occurrences are generally smaller than in the High Creek Fen preserve managed by The Nature Conservancy.

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 State ID	State Scientific Name	State Common Name	Global Rank	State Rank	Driving Site Rank
24980	<i>Kobresia myosuroides</i> - <i>Thalictrum alpinum</i> Herbaceous Vegetation	Extreme Rich Fens	G2	S1	Yes
22645	<i>Salix candida</i>	hoary or silver willow	G5	S2	No
24980	<i>Kobresia myosuroides</i> - <i>Thalictrum alpinum</i> Herbaceous Vegetation	Extreme Rich Fens	G2	S1	No
22057	<i>Primula egaliksensis</i>	Greenland primrose	G4	S2	No
24977	<i>Kobresia simpliciuscula</i> - <i>Trichophorum pumilum</i> Saturated Herbaceous Vegetation	Extreme Rich Fen	G2	S1	No
18619	<i>Eriophorum gracile</i>	slender cottongrass	G5	S2	No
19684	<i>Ptilagrostis porteri</i>	Porter feathergrass	G2	S2	No
22057	<i>Primula egaliksensis</i>	Greenland primrose	G4	S2	No
17508	<i>Packera pauciflora</i>	few-flowered ragwort	G4G5	S1S2	No
21314	<i>Carex livida</i>	livid sedge	G5	S1	No
24026	<i>Salix myrtilifolia</i>	low blueberry willow	G5	S1	No
24977	<i>Kobresia simpliciuscula</i> - <i>Trichophorum pumilum</i> Saturated Herbaceous Vegetation	Extreme Rich Fen	G2	S1	Yes

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16899	<i>Utricularia ochroleuca</i>	northern bladderwort	G4?	S1?	No
23592	<i>Carex scirpoidea</i>	Canadian single-spike sedge	G5	S2	No
21615	<i>Sisyrinchium pallidum</i>	pale blue-eyed grass	G2G3	S2	Yes
17508	<i>Packera pauciflora</i>	few-flowered ragwort	G4G5	S1S2	No
22645	<i>Salix candida</i>	hoary or silver willow	G5	S2	No
22645	<i>Salix candida</i>	hoary or silver willow	G5	S2	No
21527	<i>Trichophorum pumilum</i>	little bulrush	G5	S2	No
21527	<i>Trichophorum pumilum</i>	little bulrush	G5	S2	No
19684	<i>Ptilagrostis porteri</i>	Porter feathergrass	G2	S2	No
23155	<i>Eleocharis quinqueflora</i> Herbaceous Vegetation	Alpine Wetlands	G4	S3S4	No
21615	<i>Sisyrinchium pallidum</i>	pale blue-eyed grass	G2G3	S2	No
17561	<i>Salix serissima</i>	autumn willow	G4	S1	No
23559	<i>Unamia alba</i>	prairie goldenrod	G5	S2S3	No
23592	<i>Carex scirpoidea</i>	Canadian single-spike sedge	G5	S2	No
23592	<i>Carex scirpoidea</i>	Canadian single-spike sedge	G5	S2	No
17508	<i>Packera pauciflora</i>	few-flowered ragwort	G4G5	S1S2	No
21103	<i>Carex viridula</i>	green sedge	G5	S1	No
21527	<i>Trichophorum pumilum</i>	little bulrush	G5	S2	No

REFERENCES

Reference ID	Full Citation
193489	Schulz, T. 2001. The Nature Conservancy. Personal communication to the Colorado Natural Heritage Program.
172562	Spackman, S., D. Culver, and J. Sanderson. 2001. Final Report: Park County Inventory of Critical Biological Resources. Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Fort Collins, CO.

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date	04/23/2001
Version Author	Spackman, S.C.

Disclaimer

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