

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Horse Creek

Site Code S.USCOHP*5189

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 683 Site Class PCA
Site Alias Haystack Mountain South

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 395343N
State Colorado Longitude 1061605W

Quad Code Quad Name

39106-H3	King Creek
39106-H2	Battle Mountain
39106-G3	Mount Powell

County

Watershed Code Watershed Name

14010001	Colorado headwaters
14010002	Blue

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	8,000.00	Feet	2,438.00	Meters
Maximum Elevation	9,000.00	Feet	2,743.00	Meters

Site Description

The Horse Creek site is located at the base of the Williams Fork Mountains and on the northeastern side of Green Mountain Reservoir. Mumford Gulch, Horse Gulch, and Horse Creek flow through the site. The site supports a fen (peat-accumulating wetland that is supported by ground water discharge) dominated by clustered sedge (*Carex praegracilis*), beaked sedge (*Carex utriculata*), and water hemlock (*Cicuta douglasii*). The fen is located at the confluence of several springs that emerge from deposits of Pierre Shale. The montane willow carr (*Salix geyeriana* - *Salix monticola* / *Calamagrostis canadensis*) extends northwest up the intermittent streams. The uplands are dominated by xeric sagebrush shrublands (*Artemisia tridentata* ssp. *wyomingensis* / *Pseudoroegneria spicata*). The site is approximately 3,000 acres ranging in elevation from 2,400 m (8,000 ft.) to 2,700 m (9,000 ft.).

Key Environmental Factors

The entire site, except for the boggy areas, receives moderate to heavy grazing. A two-track road borders the site to the north. A hay meadow fragments the willow carr in the southern portion of the site.

Climate Description

No Data

Land Use History

No Data

Cultural Features

No Data

SITE DESIGN

Site Map P - Partial Mapped Date 04/08/1996

Designer Culver, D.R.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries encompass the fen, the willow carr, and the intermittent streams to provide a buffer from direct impacts (e.g., water diversions, increased agriculture production) to the hydrology. The boundaries extend west to the county line to include the sagebrush community and north to include spruce / fir habitat for the Boreal Owl.

Primary Area	5,128.13	Acres	2,075.29	Hectares
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SITE SIGNIFICANCE

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Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

The Horse Creek site is unique in that it contains one of the few relatively intact fens observed on private lands in Summit County. The fen supports a good (B-ranked) example of a globally rare (G3G4/S2) clustered sedge (*Carex praegracilis*) wetland. There are three occurrences of this fen in Summit County. There is a good (B-ranked) example of a state rare (G4/S3?) xeric sagebrush shrubland (*Artemisia tridentata* ssp. *wyomingensis* / *Pseudoroegneria spicata*). There are 11 known Colorado occurrences of this community type and only one is found in Summit County. The site also supports a fair (C-ranked) example of a globally rare (G3/S3) montane riparian willow carr (*Salix geyeriana* - *Salix monticola* / *Calamagrostis canadensis*). The state rare (G5/S2) Boreal owl (*Aegolius funereus*), a U.S. Forest Service sensitive species, was located within the Horse Creek site in 1994.

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

<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>
24470	<i>Artemisia tridentata</i> ssp. <i>wyomingensis</i> / <i>Pseudoroegneria spicata</i> Shrub Herbaceous Vegetation	Xeric Sagebrush Shrublands	G4	S3?	No
24327	<i>Aegolius funereus</i>	Boreal Owl	G5	S2	No
18593	<i>Carex praegracilis</i> Herbaceous Vegetation	Clustered Sedge Wetland	G3G4	S2	Yes
24489	<i>Salix geyeriana</i> - <i>Salix monticola</i> / <i>Calamagrostis</i> <i>canadensis</i> Shrubland	Montane Willow Carrs	G3	S3	No

REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
165258	Culver, D.R. 1997. Colorado Natural Heritage Program Wetland Assessments for the 1997 Summit County Wetlands Inventory.

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date	04/08/1996
Version Author	Culver, D.R.

Disclaimer

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