

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Horse Park

Site Code S.USCOHP3*2391

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 1304 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 402431N
State Colorado Longitude 1060047W

Quad Code Quad Name
40106-D1 Jack Creek Ranch

County
Jackson (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name
10180001 North Platte Headwaters

SITE DESCRIPTION

| | | |
|-------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Minimum Elevation | 9,299.00 Feet | 2,834.34 Meters |
| Maximum Elevation | 9,600.00 Feet | 2,926.08 Meters |

Site Description

Horse Park is a basin located between glacial moraines, La Fevre Ridge to the west and an unnamed moraine to the east. Horse Park is the headwaters of Horse Creek that flows into the Illinois River, eventually feeding into the North Platte River watershed. Horse Park is a wet meadow dominated by graminoids (*Deschampsia caespitosa*, *Carex aquatilis*, *C. utriculata*, and *Calamagrostis canadensis*) with a series of depressions or ponds that vary in saturation levels. Ponds support pond lily (*Nuphar lutea*), burreed (*Sparganium angustifolium*), and buckbean (*Menyanthes trifoliata*). Short stature willows dominated the drier edges e.g., planeleaf willow (*Salix planifolia*) and wolf willow (*Salix wolfii*). The hydrology of Horse Park is likely the combination of groundwater discharge and surface flows from precipitation and snow melt. The lower portion of the Horse Park site supports several quaking fens at the edge of the wet meadow. These fens are determined from peaty soils and floating mats of vegetation, typically consisting of elephanthead (*Pedicularis groenlandica*), marsh marigold (*Caltha leptosepala*), and arrowleaf ragwort (*Senecio triangularis*). The surrounding uplands are dominated by lodgepole pine (*Pinus contorta*) and grouse whortleberry (*Vaccinium cespitosum*).

Key Environmental Factors

Groundwater discharge and seasonal surface flows.

Climate Description

No Data

Land Use History

No Data

Cultural Features

No Data

SITE DESIGN

Site Map Y - Yes Mapped Date 10/16/2006
Designer Culver, D.R.

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes Horse Park and Horse Creek drainage. It incorporates the immediate watershed that supports the wetland-dependent plant and animals with a small buffer which should protect the elements from local disturbance or degradation, including, but not limited to, exotic species invasion and local hydrologic alterations.

Primary Area 247.83 Acres 100.30 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

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Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site is drawn for an excellent (A-ranked) occurrence of a globally vulnerable (G3/S3) plant community, *Salix wolfii* / mesic forb riparian shrubland. This plant community typically grows where the water table is usually within the top 3 feet of soil and/or where groundwater slowly seeps to the surface. Although not tracked by CNHP, there is a population of buckbean (*Menyanthes trifoliata*) which is a Forest Service Species of Concern.

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

Elements are linked to the hydrologic regime. Activities within the watershed which could impact hydrology, including water quality, quantity, and hydroperiod, should be evaluated for impacts to the elements.

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> |
| 24572 | <i>Salix wolfii</i> / Mesic Forbs Shrubland | Subalpine Riparian Willow Carr | G3 | S3 | Yes |

REFERENCES

| <u>Reference ID</u> | <u>Full Citation</u> |
|---------------------|--|
| 194561 | Culver, D.R. 2006. Final Report: Rare Plant Survey for Owl Mountain Area and Medicine Bow/Routt National Forest. Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Fort Collins, CO. |
| 198407 | Culver, D.R., K. Decker, J. Parker, J. Bell, J. Sovell, and J. Huggins. 2010. CNHP Final Report: Identification and Assessment of Important Wetlands within the North Platte Watershed, CO. Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Fort Collins, CO. |

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

Original site design by Ellingson, A.R. 1995-01-09.

VERSION

Version Date 10/16/2006
Version Author Culver, D.R.

Disclaimer

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