

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Jack Springs

Site Code S.USCOHP*6522

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 449 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 405633N
State Colorado Longitude 1050148W

Quad Code Quad Name
40105-H1 Round Butte

County
Larimer (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name
10190007 Cache La Poudre

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	5,700.00 Feet	1,737.36 Meters
Maximum Elevation	5,800.00 Feet	1,767.84 Meters

Site Description

The Jack Springs Site contains several natural springs dominated by native wetland plant communities. The springs are relatively alkaline. In several small areas a layer of water issuing forth at the spring supports an unstable mat of vegetation one-half meter thick. Sedimentary bedrock capped by a thin layer of Pleistocene alluvium underlies and surrounds the site. The type of bedrock has resulted in a variegated landscape that is dominated by short and mid grass prairie. The hydrologic regime supporting the seeps and springs appears to be generally unaltered by human modifications.

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 01/26/2005
Designer Doyle, G.A.

Boundary Justification

The site contains all the contiguous wetlands and springs as well as a 1000-foot buffer to protect from direct impacts. Keate (2004), Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, indicates a 1,000 to 2,000-foot buffer as the distance where impacts to associated wildlife may be minimal.

Primary Area 634.20 Acres 256.65 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B5: General Biodiversity Interest

Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site contains examples of globally secure (G4) but locally vulnerable (S3) wet meadow communities; *Carex simulata* and *Carex nebrascensis*. The wetlands at Jack Springs probably represent a type of wetland that was once quite common across the Great Plains portion of Larimer County. It is reasonable to assume that many of our current reservoirs were built upon natural marshes and wet meadows, many of which probably contained springs such as the Jack Springs. Along with the Brannigan Springs and Spottletwood Creek, the Jack Springs are the only known natural Great Plains wetlands in Larimer County that can be assumed to be largely representative of pre-settlement conditions. Most prairie wetland complexes have

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been altered by heavy cattle grazing, spring development, reservoir construction, or invasion by non-native species.

Other Values Rank No Data

Other Values Comments

No Data

LAND MANAGEMENT ISSUES

Land Use Comments

Ownership of the site is shared by the City of Fort Collins Utilities at their Meadow Springs Ranch and the Soapstone Ranch recently purchased by City of Fort Collins as a Natural Area. Both entities use the area for moderate to heavy grazing; as elsewhere, the cattle are especially fond of the wetland and riparian areas. Fort Collins Utilities uses the Meadow Springs Ranch for sludge disposal, but the wetland areas are carefully avoided.

Natural Hazard Comments

No Data

Exotics Comments

Small amounts of the noxious weed Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*) are present in the wetland and have the potential to become more prevalent with time.

Offsite

Activities affecting the ground water to the north of the site could affect the elements on the site.

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>
22403	<i>Carex nebrascensis</i> Herbaceous Vegetation	Wet Meadows	G4	S3	Yes
16887	<i>Carex simulata</i> Herbaceous Vegetation	Wet Meadow	G4	S3	Yes

REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
192827	Colorado Department of Natural Resources. 1998. Planning trails with wildlife in mind. Colorado Department of Natural Resources, Trails Program. Denver, CO.
192692	Doyle, G.A., S.L. Neid and R.J. Rondeau. 2005. Final Report: Survey of Critical Biological Resources, Larimer County, Colorado. Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Fort Collins, CO.
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.
166568	Kettler, S., J. Sanderson, S. Spackman, K. Fayette, C. Pague, D. Clark, and A. Hicks. 1996. Final Report: Significant plant, animal, and wetland resources of Larimer County and their conservation. Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Fort Collins, CO.

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

Original site design by Sanderson, J.S. 1996-12-01.

VERSION

Version Date 01/26/2005

Version Author Doyle, G.A.

Disclaimer

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