

# Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Lake Marie

Site Code S.USCOHP\*8462

## IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 723 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 373349N  
State Colorado Longitude 1073622W

Quad Code Quad Name  
37107-E5 Columbine Pass

County  
La Plata (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name  
14080104 Animas

## SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	11,600.00 Feet	3,535.68 Meters
Maximum Elevation	12,400.00 Feet	3,780.00 Meters

### Site Description

Lake Marie is located in Crystal Valley, a narrow, glacial valley that is oriented from north to south. The headwaters for the Florida River are located at Lillie Lake in the northern most part of the site. Crystal Valley is bordered by Silver Mesa to the west and Mount Valois, 13,185 feet, to the immediate east. Lillie Lake and Lake Marie are likely tarn lakes, created by past glacial and mass wasting activities. The site is located above treeline within the subalpine zone. Short-fruited willow (*Salix brachycarpa*) dominates the drier slopes with scattered stunted Engelmann spruce (*Picea engelmannii*). The wetlands along the Florida River are dominated by plane-leaf willow (*Salix planifolia*), tufted hairgrass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*), tall cottongrass (*Eriophorum angustifolium*) and several sedges (*Carex canescens*, *Carex vernacula*, *Carex aquatilis*, *Carex chalciolepis*). Lake Marie is located on granite bedrock. The lake supports a population of an aquatic plant, quillwort (*Isoetes bolanderi*).

### 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 12/22/2003

Designer Culver, D.R.

### Boundary Justification

This site includes the occurrence and a buffer of similar habitat to protect against direct impacts such as trampling or erosional disturbances. The buffer will also provide suitable habitat where additional individuals can become established over time. The hydrology of the site is important to the element and should be considered during any modifications in the watershed. The boundaries incorporate an area that will allow the natural hydrological processes from surrounding drainages. The boundaries encompass Lillie Lake, for this is the headwaters of the Florida River that feed Lake Marie. It should be noted that the hydrological processes necessary to the element are not fully contained by the site boundaries.

Primary Area 776.96 Acres 314.42 Hectares

## SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B5: General Biodiversity Interest

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## Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site drawn for an excellent (A-ranked) occurrence of the globally apparently secure, but state vulnerable (G4?T3T4/S3) *Eriophorum altaicum* var. *neogaeum* plant subspecies (Altai cottongrass). *Eriophorum altaicum* var. *neogaeum* is documented in British Columbia, Montana, Wyoming, Utah, and Colorado. CNHP has 32 known locations for *Eriophorum altaicum* var. *neogaeum* as of 2003.

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

Hydrological processes originating outside of the planning boundary, including water quality, quantity, timing and flow must be managed to maintain site viability.

## 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>
21874	<i>Eriophorum altaicum</i> var. <i>neogaeum</i>	Altai cottongrass	G4?T3T4	S3	Yes

## REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
184533	March, M. and D. Culver. 2003. Colorado Natural Heritage Program Field Survey for La Plata County Wetlands.

## ADDITIONAL TOPICS

## Additional Topics

No Data

## VERSION

Version Date 12/22/2003  
Version Author Culver, D.R.

## Disclaimer

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