

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Lake Pasture

Site Code S.USCOHP*5843

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 967 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 401649N
State Colorado Longitude 1052718W

Quad Code Quad Name
40105-C4 Panorama Peak

County
Larimer (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name
10190006 Big Thompson

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	7,940.00 Feet	2,420.11 Meters
Maximum Elevation	8,380.00 Feet	2,554.22 Meters

Site Description

Lake Pasture is a cluster of small ponds that were likely formed at the end of the most recent glaciation, around 10,000-13,000 years ago. Currently a visitor to this site sees several small ponds separated by low ridges surrounded by extensive wet meadows. The water is rather shallow, probably no more than 2 meters at the deepest, allowing rooted aquatic plants to thrive even in the pond centers. Elk visit these ponds frequently, as do waterfowl that breed in them and rest there during migration. The ponds are situated in the northeastern portion of Elk Park. The Park itself is dominated by European hay grasses such as smooth brome (*Bromus inermis*) and timothy grass (*Phleum pratense*) in moist areas and native sedges and grasses in wetter areas. Conifers, especially ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*), dominate the surrounding forests, as is typical for mid-montane elevations in the Front Range.

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 10/18/1996
Designer Sanderson, J.S.

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the kettle ponds, adjacent wetlands, seep wetlands upslope from and adjacent to the ponds, and a buffer around the wetlands to protect from direct and indirect human impacts. The buffer generally extends to about 1,000 ft. beyond the edge of the wetlands, or to the tops of ridges that naturally separate the wetland ecosystem from adjacent areas.

Primary Area 431.60 Acres 174.66 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B4: Moderate Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site contains an excellent (A-ranked) occurrence of a globally secure but state rare (G5/S1) natural community, *Utricularia macrorhiza* Herbaceous Vegetation.

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Other Values Rank No Data

Other Values Comments

No Data

LAND MANAGEMENT ISSUES

Land Use Comments

The site is owned by a family that is currently working with the Estes Valley Land Trust to place an easement on the property. The site is leased by Aspen Lodge. The lodge brings visitors to and through the site on horseback. The light travel and grazing by horses appears to cause no adverse effects at the site, although a campsite between two of the ponds should be moved into the adjacent forest so that it does not block wildlife movement between the ponds.

Natural Hazard Comments

No Data

Exotics Comments

No Data

Offsite

No Data

Information Needs

Surveys for imperiled animals that may occur at this wetland are desirable, but they have not been conducted.

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>
17158	<i>Glyceria borealis</i> Herbaceous Vegetation	Montane Emergent Wetland	G4	S3	No
18795	<i>Carex utriculata</i> Herbaceous Vegetation	Beaked Sedge Montane Wet Meadows	G5	S4	No
19341	<i>Sparganium angustifolium</i> Herbaceous Vegetation	Montane Floating/submergent Palustrine Wetlands	G4	SU	No
44144	<i>Utricularia macrorhiza</i> Herbaceous Vegetation [Provisional]		G5	S1	Yes
40635	<i>Potamogeton natans</i> Herbaceous Vegetation	Montane Floating/Submergent Wetland	G5?	S1	No

REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
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.
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

No Data

VERSION

Version Date 03/08/2005

Version Author Doyle, G.A.

Disclaimer

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