

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Lakes at Bolam Pass

Site Code S.USCOHP*25471

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 2225 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 374258N
State Colorado Longitude 1075443W

Quad Code Quad Name
37107-F8 Hermosa Peak

County

San Juan (CO)
Dolores (CO)

<u>Watershed Code</u>	<u>Watershed Name</u>
14080104	Animas
14030002	Upper Dolores

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation - Feet - Meters
Maximum Elevation - Feet - Meters

Site Description

The Lakes at Bolam Pass site is located near Bolam Pass in the San Juan National Forest, Dolores River watershed. The site is situated near the east flank of Hermosa Peak adjacent to the divide between the Dolores River and Hermosa Creek drainages. The lakes are small, groundwater and sheet flow fed ponds of various shapes. The largest lake contains approximately 1 acre of open water (ocular estimate). In addition to lakes, there are seasonally wet depressions throughout the site. Fringe areas adjacent to some of the ponds are soligenous (groundwater fed) peatlands or fens. Peatlands form in areas where water accumulates and plant decomposition is less than plant productivity due to saturated soils. The site contains a dynamic mosaic of herbaceous wetland plant communities. Water sedge (*Carex aquatilis*) and beaked sedge (*Carex utriculata*) form tall, narrow stands along the pond shores. Two ponds support aquatic plants, including narrowleaf burreed (*Sparganium emersum*) and tall cottongrass (*Eriophorum angustifolium*). Bluejoint reedgrass (*Calamagrostis canadensis*) is a dominant plant that occupies the terraces and hummocks adjacent to the ponds as well as forms long rib-like terraces along the downward slope within the mesic depressions. The mesic depressions are composed of mud or are dominated by common spikerush (*Eleocharis palustris*). The meadows immediately adjacent to the ponds are dominated by tufted hairgrass (*Deschampsia caespitosa*) or sheep sedge (*Carex illota*). The soils adjacent to the ponds (extending to 8-10 meters out from the water's edge) are peaty (42+ cm). Some of the peat areas quake or shake when walked across, indicating a floating mat. These areas are dominated by sheep sedge with a sparse cover of mosses. In addition to tufted hairgrass and sheep sedge, mesic forbs occupy the surrounding meadows, including marsh marigold (*Caltha leptosepala*), elephantella (*Pedicularis groenlandica*), rose crown (*Clementsia rhodantha*) and others. Numerous tadpoles were present in three of the five ponds during the 2004 survey. Uplands surrounding the site are dominated by Thurber's fescue (*Festuca thurberi*) grass meadows and spruce-fir (*Picea engelmannii*-*Abies lasiocarpa*) forests. A four-wheel drive jeep trail is near the site, and a small portable cabin or hut equipped with propane and water jugs is adjacent to the meadow. Recreation can be heavy in the general area and ATV use is an observed threat to the integrity of this wetland system. Other recreational uses include hunting, horse riding, bicycling, camping, hiking, and winter recreation such as snow machine riding.

Key Environmental Factors

No Data

Climate Description

No Data

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Land Use History

No Data

Cultural Features

No Data

SITE DESIGN

Site Map Y - Yes

Mapped Date 11/19/2004

Designer March, M.A.

Boundary Justification

The boundary encompasses the element occurrences and immediate adjacent area to buffer hydrological processes necessary for the viability of the elements. The boundary also provides a buffer from trails, the road, and campsites where direct disturbance to the soil may cause dewatering and organic soil loss, and where surface runoff may contribute excess nutrients, sediment and weed invasion. It should be noted that all hydrological processes necessary for wetland viability are not contained within the site boundaries.

Primary Area 185.32 Acres

74.99 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B4: Moderate Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

The site supports a good (B-rank) occurrence of the subalpine wet meadow fen, *Carex illota* herbaceous vegetation whose global rank is unknown at this time (GUQ/S2) and a good (B-ranked) occurrence of the apparently globally secure (G4/S4) subalpine wet meadow, *Deschampsia caespitosa* herbaceous vegetation.

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 Rank</u>	<u>State Rank</u>	<u>Driving Site Rank</u>
<u>State ID</u>	<u>State Scientific Name</u>	<u>State Common Name</u>			
21256	<i>Carex illota</i> Herbaceous Vegetation	Alpine Wetlands	GUQ	S2	Yes
24012	<i>Deschampsia caespitosa</i> Herbaceous Vegetation	Mesic Alpine Meadow	G4	S4	No

REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
192742	March, M.A. 2005. Final Report: Natural Heritage Wetland Inventory of Dolores County. Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Fort Collins, CO.

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date 11/19/2004

Version Author March, M.A.

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