

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Little Hohnholz Lake

Site Code S.USCOHP*656

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 1385 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 405631N
State Colorado Longitude 1055942W

Quad Code Quad Name
40105-H8 Crazy Mountain

County
Larimer (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name
10180010 Upper Laramie

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	7,920.00 Feet	2,414.02 Meters
Maximum Elevation	8,000.00 Feet	2,438.40 Meters

Site Description

The Little Hohnholz Lake site is a wetland along a reservoir shore surrounded by poor to good condition sagebrush plains. The wetlands are alkaline and support Nebraska sedge (*Carex nebrascensis*), sedge (*Carex simulata*), spikerush (*Eleocharis quinqueflora*), pale blue-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium pallidum*), arrowgrass (*Triglochin* sp.) and lousewort (*Pedicularis crenulata*). The reservoir is naturally spring fed, and the springs support small but good condition wetland habitat. The sagebrush shrublands surrounding the reservoir are dominated by big sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*), milkvetch (*Astragalus* sp.), and mixed graminoids, as well as larch-leaf beardtongue (*Penstemon laricifolius* ssp. *exilifolius*) and dropleaf buckwheat (*Eriogonum exilifolium*).

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 10/17/1996
Designer Fayette, K.K.

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the element occurrences and a buffer for these elements to protect the hydrology and to ensure against erosion. It is important to note that hydrologic modifications (e.g., wells, diversions) to the north, west, and south of the site may affect the hydrology of the site even if the modifications occur beyond the site boundary.

Primary Area 244.64 Acres 99.00 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site supports a fair (C-ranked) occurrence of a globally imperiled (G2G3/S2) plant species pale blue-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium pallidum*), and a fair (C-ranked) occurrence of an alkaline spring wetland (*Eleocharis quinqueflora*) that is rare (G4/S3S4) in Colorado.

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Other Values Rank V3 - Moderate values

Other Values Comments

The natural hydrology at the inlet of the reservoir and the reservoir itself provides foraging habitat for Great Blue Heron, White-faced Ibis, and White Pelican.

LAND MANAGEMENT ISSUES

Land Use Comments

Recreational use for fisherman is high. The area appears to be at least partially grazed. There appears to be old irrigation ditches on the north side of the reservoir. This may have been an old hay meadow before the reservoir was put in. The Colorado Division of Wildlife owns and manages most of this site and the rest is privately owned. Recreational uses and the associated increase in non-native plant species may threaten the occurrences, especially the pale blue-eyed grass.

Natural Hazard Comments

No Data

Exotics Comments

Yellow sweetclover (*Melilotus officinale*) poses a significant threat to *Sisyrinchium pallidum*. One patch of *Melilotus officinale* 20x10m was observed immediately adjacent to the *Sisyrinchium pallidum* occurrence, as well as scattered individuals. At least one area of Kentucky bluegrass (*Poa pratensis*) was observed. White clover (*Trifolium repens*), yarrow (*Achillea lanulosa*), and Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*) were also noted.

Offsite

Adjacent lands are used as grazing land and are dominated by sagebrush grasslands.

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>
21615	<i>Sisyrinchium pallidum</i>	pale blue-eyed grass	G2G3	S2	Yes
23155	<i>Eleocharis quinqueflora</i> Herbaceous Vegetation	Alpine Wetlands	G4	S3S4	No

REFERENCES

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

Site updated by Doyle, G.A. 2005-03-03.

VERSION

Version Date 12/09/2009
Version Author Culver, D.R.

Disclaimer

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