

# Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Lost Lake

Site Code S.USCOHP\*23815

## IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 232 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 385230N  
 State Colorado Longitude 1071211W

## Quad Code Quad Name

38107-G2 Anthracite Range  
 38107-H2 Marcellina Mountain

## County

Gunnison (CO)

## Watershed Code Watershed Name

14020004 North Fork Gunnison

## SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	8,500.00 Feet	2,591.00 Meters
Maximum Elevation	10,000.00 Feet	3,048.00 Meters

## Site Description

The Lost Lake area is a popular recreation spot for fishing, hiking, camping, and equestrian activities. Much of the upland slopes are dominated by spruce-fir. Forest Road 706 enters the site near its western end while a smaller, rarely used four-wheel drive road runs up along Middle Creek. Middle Creek is a moderately steep and narrow creek, which drains out of Lost Lake Slough. The riparian area is dominated by blue spruce (*Picea pungens*), alder (*Alnus incana*), Engelmann spruce (*Picea engelmannii*), subalpine fir (*Abies lasiocarpa*), and Drummond willow (*Salix drummondiana*). The understory is diverse and includes species such as twinberry honeysuckle (*Lonicera involucrata*), tufted sedge (*Carex lenticularis*), small-winged sedge (*C. microptera*), bluejoint reedgrass (*Calamagrostis canadensis*), bracken fern (*Pteridium aquilinum*), geranium (*Geranium richardsonii*), false hellebore (*Veratrum tenuipetalum*), arrowleaf groundsel (*Senecio triangularis*), horsetail (*Equisetum arvense*), mountain bluebells (*Mertensia ciliata*), wild strawberry (*Fragaria virginiana*), cow parsnip (*Heracleum sphondylium* var. *montanum*), large-leaved avens (*Geum macrophyllum*), monk's hood (*Aconitum columbianum*), orange sneezeweed (*Dugaldia hoopesii*), thimbleberry (*Rubus parviflorum*), miterwort (*Mitella* sp.), false-Solomon's seal (*Maianthemum stellata*), dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*), water parsnip (*Sium suave*), bog-orchid (*Limnorchis hyperborea*), Brandegees fumewort (*Corydalis caseana* subsp. *brandegei*), monkeyflower (*Mimulus guttatus*), and bedstraw (*Galium septentrionale*). There is a lot of woody debris within the stream channel forming a nice riffle-pool complex. Structural diversity is high, with nice tree, shrub, and herbaceous canopies. Marsh cinquefoil (*Comarum palustre*) occurs along the western shore of a pond west of Lost Lake Slough. This area consists of a large open water area with extensive beaked sedge (*Carex utriculata*) and inflated sedge (*Carex vesicaria*) meadows surrounding it. The pond formed behind aglacial moraine. Marsh cinquefoil is dense on the western shore of the pond on slightly higher ground than the sedge meadows, although in some places marsh cinquefoil is extending out into open water. Bog bean (*Menyanthes trifoliata*) is also found sporadically along the shoreline. Mountain willow (*Salix monticola*) occurs on the edge of the wetland. An inflated sedge meadow occurs in a small depression on a hillside bench west of Forest Road 706 about a ¼ mile north of Lost Lake Slough. The depression does not appear to have an obvious inlet or outlet and may be an old kettle pond that has filled. Other smaller depressions are in the area but do not support much wetland vegetation. Surrounding slopes are vegetated with aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) and spruce - fir. Inflated sedge dominates most of the depression although beaked sedge is dominant in the lowest, wettest portions of the wetland. Small open water areas, which were dry during the 2002 site visit, are scattered about the wetland. Mountain willow is growing at the south end of the depression. These shrubs may indicate a possible inlet, but no defined channel, either coming into or out of the wetland, was found.

## Key Environmental Factors

No Data

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## Climate Description

No Data

## Land Use History

No Data

## Cultural Features

No Data

### SITE DESIGN

Site Map Y - Yes

Mapped Date 12/30/2002

Designer Rocchio, F.J.

## Boundary Justification

The boundaries incorporate an area that will allow natural hydrological processes such as seasonal flooding, sediment deposition, and new channel formation to maintain viable populations of the elements along Middle Creek. The boundaries also provide a small buffer from nearby trails and roads where surface runoff may contribute excess nutrients and sediment. Recharge areas necessary for the maintenance of hydrology both within Middle Creek and for the ponds associated with the inflated sedge meadow are also included in the site boundaries. This boundary indicates the minimum area that should be considered for any conservation management plan.

Primary Area 901.15 Acres

364.69 Hectares

### SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

## Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site supports a good (B-ranked) example of the globally vulnerable (G3/S3) blue spruce / thinleaf alder (*Picea pungens* / *Alnus incana*) woodland. This woodland occurs in deep, shaded canyons and narrow valleys along relatively straight stream reaches. It generally forms small patches, but can be continuous for several river miles. This association is known from Wyoming to New Mexico. Fewer than 100 stands exist in Colorado, and very few of these are in pristine condition. This association is threatened by development, road building and maintenance, heavy recreational use, improper livestock grazing, and stream flow alterations. This site also supports a good (B-ranked) example of the state rare secure (G4Q/S1) inflated sedge plant association, *Carex vesicaria*. This association has a wide regional distribution, but has only been documented in very small patches on the landscape. The association is documented from only two stands in Colorado, which may represent its southern distribution. The association forms open meadows similar to the beaked sedge plant association. As with beaked sedge, it occurs along the shores of lakes and ponds in shallow water, as well as in poorly drained basins and along rivers and streams. The water table typically remains above the ground surface throughout the year.

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</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>
18964	<i>Carex vesicaria</i> Herbaceous Vegetation	Montane Wetland	G4Q	S1	No

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24518 *Picea pungens* / *Alnus incana* Woodland Montane Riparian Forests G3 S3 Yes

## REFERENCES

Reference ID	Full Citation
173839	Rocchio J., G Doyle, and R. Rondeau. 2003. Final Report: Survey of Critical Wetlands and Riparian Areas in Gunnison County, Colorado. Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Fort Collins, CO.
173182	Rocchio, J. 2002. Colorado Natural Heritage Program Field Survey of Critical Wetlands in Gunnison County.

## ADDITIONAL TOPICS

### Additional Topics

No Data

## VERSION

Version Date 12/30/2002  
Version Author Rocchio, F.J.

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