

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Mitchell Lakes

Site Code S.USCOHP*24678

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 2086 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>
2148	S.USCOHP*24990	Hermosa Creek

LOCATORS

Nation United States Latitude 372741N
State Colorado Longitude 1074937W

Quad Code Quad Name

37107-D7 Hermosa

County

La Plata (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name

14080104 Animas

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation - Feet - Meters

Maximum Elevation - Feet - Meters

Site Description

Mitchell Lakes occur on a broad, flat area within the mountain range that stretches northward, eventually forming the Hermosa Cliffs and the east side of the Hermosa Creek drainage. The lake area occurs in a flat to sloping bowl with higher benches on three sides. It consists of a series of at least three isolated depressions with ephemeral to year round water input, supporting either wetland plants or mesic meadows depending on water availability. The northern most area supports a depressional wetland dominated by bulrush (*Schoenoplectus acutus*). This pond appears to have a consistent water supply. There is a small open water area adjacent the solid stand of bulrush with aquatic vegetation including great bladderwort (*Utricularia macrorhiza*), pondweed (*Potamogeton* sp.) and water plantain (*Alisma triviale*). Water input is thought to be from precipitation, sheetflow and groundwater. Uplands consist of ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) forests with juniper (*Juniperus scopulorum*) and Gambel oak (*Quercus gambelii*). Meadows surrounding the lakes are weedy, including mullein, hound's tongue, butter and eggs and Canada thistle.

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 12/10/2003

Designer March, M.A.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries incorporate an area that will allow for the natural hydrological processes from surrounding drainages. The boundaries also provide a small buffer from nearby trails, roads and grazing fields where surface runoff may contribute excess nutrients, sediment and weed invasion. It should be noted that the hydrological processes necessary to the element are not fully contained by the site boundaries.

Primary Area 283.84 Acres 114.87 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B4: Moderate Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site supports a globally vulnerable (G4/S2S3) hardstem bulrush - softstem bulrush (*Schoenoplectus*

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acutus var. acutus -Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani) plant community that is in good (B) condition.

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

The uplands surrounding Mitchell Lakes contain a high density of weed composition including mullein, houndstongue, butter and eggs and Canada thistle.

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>
24564	<i>Schoenoplectus acutus</i> - <i>Typha latifolia</i> - (<i>Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani</i>) Sandhills Herbaceous Vegetation	Great Plains Marsh	G4	S2S3	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	01/15/2004
Version Author	March, M.A.

Disclaimer

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