

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name North Beaver Creek

Site Code S.USCOHP*27294

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 2506 Site Class PCA
Site Alias None

Network of Conservation Areas (NCA)

NCA Site ID NCA Site Code NCA Site Name
- No Data

LOCATORS

Nation United States Latitude 395741N
State Colorado Longitude 1053220W

Quad Code Quad Name

39105-H5 Nederland

County

Boulder (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name

10190005 St. Vrain

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation 8,400.00 Feet 2,560.32 Meters
Maximum Elevation 8,840.00 Feet 2,694.43 Meters

Site Description

The North Beaver Creek site is located west of the town of Nederland. This site encompasses a large open valley where Coon Track Creek and Hicks Gulch join to form North Beaver Creek. East of the site, the creek flows through Nederland and into Barker Reservoir. The floor of the valley supports an extensive, dense willow carr dominated by park willow (*Salix monticola*) at 60% cover. There are emergent blue spruce (*Picea pungens*) scattered throughout the wetland, as well as 10% cover of thinleaf alder (*Alnus incana*). Willows within the stand are mainly 3-4 m tall and the alder reach 5 m tall. CNHP did not receive landowner permission, but from the roadside it appears that native species, including bluejoint reedgrass (*Calamagrostis canadensis*), water sedge (*Carex aquatilis*), and beaked sedge (*Carex utriculata*), dominate the understory along with typical forbs such as cowparsnip (*Heracleum maximum*), fringed bluebells (*Mertensia ciliata*), and fireweed (*Chamerion angustifolium*). Surrounding slopes are forested with Engelmann spruce (*Picea engelmannii*), limber pine (*Pinus flexilis*), ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*), Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), and several pockets of quaking aspen (*Populus tremuloides*).

Key Environmental Factors

There may be enough groundwater discharge from the surrounding hillsides to maintain high water tables for healthy willow growth in the absence of beaver activity.

Climate Description

No Data

Land Use History

There is a history of mining activity in the Caribou area that continues today. There are several old mines near the creeks and at least one active mine near the Caribou Townsite. The area was likely grazed in the past.

Cultural Features

No Data

SITE DESIGN

Site Map Y - Yes Mapped Date 06/11/2008
Designer Decker, K.L. and J.M. Lemly

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the occurrence and a buffer encompassing the surrounding hillsides. Although this area provides a buffer against disturbance and contributes to the hydrological and ecological processes maintaining the willow carr, off-site activities within the watershed have the potential to impact the elements of biodiversity present in the area.

Primary Area 321.91 Acres 130.27 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

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Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

The site supports a good (B-ranked) occurrence of a globally vulnerable (G3/S3) *Salix monticola* / *Calamagrostis canadensis* montane willow carr.

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

There are non-native species, e.g. redtop (*Agrostis gigantea*) and smooth brome (*Bromus inermis*), along the road and some observed in the wetland understory, though they do not contribute high cover

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>
24514	<i>Salix monticola</i> / <i>Calamagrostis canadensis</i> Shrubland	Montane Willow Carr	G3	S3	Yes

REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
195190	Neid, S., J. Lemly, K. Decker and D. Culver. 2009. Final Report: Survey of Critical Biological Resources in Boulder County 2007-2008. Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Fort Collins, CO.

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date 06/11/2008
Version Author Decker, K.L. and J.M. Lemly

Disclaimer

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