

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Old Railroad

Site Code S.USCOHP*1690

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 1230 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 390017N
State Colorado Longitude 1055635W

Quad Code Quad Name

39105-A8 Garo
38105-H8 Antero Reservoir

County

Park (CO)

<u>Watershed Code</u>	<u>Watershed Name</u>
10190001	South Platte Headwaters

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	8,800.00 Feet	2,682.00 Meters
Maximum Elevation	9,100.00 Feet	2,774.00 Meters

Site Description

This site encompasses an extreme rich fen complex on the northwest corner of Antero Reservoir, east and north of the South Fork of the South Platte River. An old, abandoned railroad grade cuts through the site from the northeast to the southwest, about 1/4 mile from the reservoir. Between the railroad grade and the reservoir is one of South Park's best developed examples of an extreme rich fen. This area contains most of the extreme rich fen rare plant species. In the peat area, hummocks are dominated by the *Kobresia simpliciuscula* - *Scirpus pumilus* plant associations. *Carex simulata* and other sedges, *Triglochin* spp., and fewflower spikerush (*Eleocharis quinqueflora*) dominate the swales. Canadian single-spike sedge (*Carex scirpoidea*) and few-flowered ragwort (*Packera pauciflorus*) occur mainly on the southern edge of the peat on a light colored soil, with much lower organic content. West of the railroad grade the extreme rich fen has been destroyed by peat mining. Only scattered extreme rich fen species still occur there.

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 01/13/1995
Designer Sanderson, J.S.

Boundary Justification

The site boundary includes the intact peatland, the mined peatland, and the seep area to the west that appears hydrologically connected to the peatland. The encompassed hydrology is vital for the support of the significant elements within the fen. The boundary is drawn to incorporate an area where natural processes (such as groundwater recharge, species reproduction) function in a manner that maintains viable populations of the elements associated with the fen. However, all hydrological processes necessary to the elements are not fully contained in the boundary. Upstream activities that alter hydrology or sediment loads could detrimentally affect the elements.

Primary Area 1,129.21 Acres 456.98 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

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Biodiversity Significance Rank B2: Very High Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site supports fair (C-ranked) occurrences of the globally imperiled (G2/S1) community, *Kobresia myosuroides* - *Thalictrum alpinum*, and the globally imperiled (G2/S1) plant community, *Kobresia simpliciuscula* - *Scirpus rollandii*. Additionally the site supports several state significant plants as well as an excellent (A-ranked) occurrence of a globally imperiled (G2G3/S2) plant, pale blue-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium pallidum*). Peat has been removed from half of the fen, and the hydrology has been altered by the railroad grade and upstream diversion. Despite these alterations, the hydrology in the area east of the railroad grade appears sufficiently intact to support the elements.

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>State Scientific Name</u>	<u>State Common Name</u>	<u>Global Rank</u>	<u>State Rank</u>	<u>Driving Site Rank</u>
21615	<i>Sisyrinchium pallidum</i>	pale blue-eyed grass	G2G3	S2	Yes
24026	<i>Salix myrtillofolia</i>	low blueberry willow	G5	S1	No
22057	<i>Primula egaliksensis</i>	Greenland primrose	G4	S2	No
17508	<i>Packera pauciflora</i>	few-flowered ragwort	G4G5	S1S2	No
22645	<i>Salix candida</i>	hoary or silver willow	G5	S2	No
23592	<i>Carex scirpoidea</i>	Canadian single-spike sedge	G5	S2	No
22645	<i>Salix candida</i>	hoary or silver willow	G5	S2	No
24977	<i>Kobresia simpliciuscula</i> - <i>Trichophorum pumilum</i> Saturated Herbaceous Vegetation	Extreme Rich Fen	G2	S1	No
24980	<i>Kobresia myosuroides</i> - <i>Thalictrum alpinum</i> Herbaceous Vegetation	Extreme Rich Fens	G2	S1	No
21527	<i>Trichophorum pumilum</i>	little bulrush	G5	S2	No

REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
193488	Nichols, G. 2001. Personal communication to the Colorado Natural Heritage Program.

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date	02/15/2001
Version Author	Spackman, S.C.

Disclaimer

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