

# Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Red Dirt Reservoir

Site Code S.USCOHP\*25877

## IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 2287 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 401017N  
State Colorado Longitude 1063535W

Quad Code Quad Name  
40106-B5 Tyler Mountain

County  
Grand (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name  
14010001 Colorado headwaters

## SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	9,805.00 Feet	2,988.56 Meters
Maximum Elevation	9,845.00 Feet	3,000.76 Meters

### Site Description

Occurrences are small patch meadows fed by groundwater. Meadows are dominated by herbaceous species, but also support a consistent cover of evergreen tree species. Graminoid layer is dominated by water sedge (*Carex aquatilis*) with many areas that are strictly water sedge and fewflower spikerush (*Eleocharis quinqueflora*) with no other herbaceous cover. Other graminoids are also present including beaked sedge (*Carex utriculata*) in mesic areas and bluejoint reedgrass (*Calamagrostis canadensis*) and tufted hairgrass (*Deschampsia caespitosa*) in drier areas. Peatmoss (*Sphagnum* sp.) is a very important and dominant component throughout the stand occurring on hummocks and drying in some areas, being more dominant throughout the southern portion of the site. Peat soils of depths greater than 62 cm give this community the unique characteristics of a fen based on specific hydrology and soil structure. Tree species present include lodgepole pine (*Pinus contorta*), Engelmann spruce (*Picea engelmannii*), and subalpine fir (*Abies lasiocarpa*). Surrounding uplands are dominated by mature lodgepole pine, Engelmann spruce, and subalpine fir mixed forests. Diamondleaf willow (*Salix planifolia*) is also present in moderate cover along edges and to some degree in meadow. Geology consists of igneous rocks of the Precambrian Age, specifically, granitic rocks of 1,400 million years. Soils are saturated throughout with many areas of standing water.

### Key Environmental Factors

Key environmental factors influencing the biota of the site include groundwater fed, year-round hydrology.

### Climate Description

The area likely follows typical Colorado climate patterns being xeric year-round with wet spring weather and late summer "monsoon" season.

### Land Use History

No Data

### Cultural Features

No Data

## SITE DESIGN

Site Map Y - Yes Mapped Date 11/15/2005  
Designer Jones, J.R.

### Boundary Justification

The boundary is drawn to encompass the open meadows, buffered uplands and ecological processes that maintain site hydrology including upstream surface flows and groundwater discharge. However, the boundary does not encompass all uplands surrounding the site that may impact the area. Activities such as development, road maintenance, logging, or burning may negatively impact the site.

Primary Area 60.72 Acres 24.57 Hectares

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## SITE SIGNIFICANCE

**Biodiversity Significance Rank** B3: High Biodiversity Significance

### Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site is drawn for a good (B-ranked) occurrence of the globally vulnerable (G3/S3) community, water sedge (*Carex aquatilis*) - beaked sedge (*Carex utriculata*) perched wetland. This site is a unique wetland type due to its groundwater fed hydrology and deep, well-developed peat soils.

**Other Values Rank** V3 - Moderate values

### Other Values Comments

Other values provided include wildlife habitat in a generally xeric area and species diversity and aesthetic values to an area dominated by lodgepole pine forests.

## LAND MANAGEMENT ISSUES

### Land Use Comments

Area is predominantly used for recreational purposes, hiking and hunting, and for logging.

### Natural Hazard Comments

No Data

### Exotics Comments

There are very few exotics in the area and none seen within the site. There is a potential for exotic species invasion due to proximity to a forest service road.

### Offsite

Logging is the main off-site disturbance that may influence the area.

### Information Needs

No Data

## ASSOCIATED ELEMENTS OF BIODIVERSITY

<u>Element State ID</u>	<u>State Scientific Name</u>	<u>State Common Name</u>	<u>Global Rank</u>	<u>State Rank</u>	<u>Driving Site Rank</u>
24955	<i>Carex aquatilis</i> - <i>Carex utriculata</i> Vegetation	Herbaceous Montane Wet Meadows	G4	S4	Yes

## REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
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160140	Dorn, R. D. 1997. Rocky Mountain Region Willow Identification Field Guide. Renewable Resources R2-RR-97-01. Denver, CO: USDA, Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Region. 107p.
167224	Hurd, E.G., N.L. Shaw, J. Mastroguiseppe, L.C. Smithman, and S. Goodrich. 1998. Field Guide to Intermountain Sedges. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rocky Mountain Research Station, Ogden, UT.
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192747	Tweto, O. 1979. Geologic Map of Colorado, 1:500,000. United States Geological Survey, Department of Interior, and Geologic Survey of Colorado, Denver, CO.
193553	USDA, NRCS. 2005. The PLANTS Database, Version 3.5 ( <a href="http://plants.usda.gov">http://plants.usda.gov</a> ). Data compiled from various sources by Mark W. Skinner. National Plant Data Center < <a href="http://npdc.usda.gov/">http://npdc.usda.gov/</a> >, Baton Rouge, LA 70874-4490 USA. Accessed 2005.
172684	Weber, W.A. and R.C. Wittmann. 2001. Colorado Flora: Western Slope, Third Edition. University Press of Colorado, Niwot, CO.

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## ADDITIONAL TOPICS

### Additional Topics

No Data

## VERSION

Version Date 11/15/2005

Version Author Jones, J.R.

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