

# Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Saint Vrain Creek below Lyons

Site Code S.USCOHP\*27414

## IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 2524 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 401108N  
State Colorado Longitude 1051504W

## Quad Code Quad Name

40105-B3 Lyons  
40105-B2 Hygiene

## County

## Watershed Code Watershed Name

10190005 St. Vrain

## SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	5,040.00 Feet	1,536.19 Meters
Maximum Elevation	5,700.00 Feet	1,737.36 Meters

## Site Description

Half of this site is characterized by numerous ditches near the main St. Vrain creekbed. It is a relatively flat, wide floodplain with scattered trees, few shrubs and a very open understory dominated by grasses and sedges. Dominating grasses include native sandreed and sedges as well as the non-native smooth brome and Kentucky bluegrass. Trees include the white willow (*Salix alba*), an introduced willow, and narrowleaf / plains cottonwoods. The shrub layer is represented by coyote willow and peach-leaf willow. The general plant community consists of the riparian corridor and floodplains with a mixed open canopy. The streambank is primarily a grassland with a high species diversity. The stream course, with bank, terraces, and floodplain, is bounded by irrigated pastures and irrigated cropland. There is generally natural seasonal flooding with additional fluctuations typically related to irrigation diversion. The soils are Niwot soil which are gray-brown, sandy-clay loams of alluvial origin over a coarse gravelly sand subsoil. The water table is evidently close to the surface in many areas. The southern half of the site consists of the east-facing slope of the hogback with shallow intermittent drainages vegetated with shrubs. The Northern Leopard Frog (*Rana pipiens*) and Veery (*Catharus fuscenscens*) have been documented in the area, and Bald Eagles nest in the vicinity.

## Key Environmental Factors

No Data

## Climate Description

No Data

## Land Use History

No Data

## Cultural Features

No Data

## SITE DESIGN

Site Map P - Partial Mapped Date 10/30/2008  
Designer Siemers, J.L.

## Boundary Justification

The boundary is drawn to include the riparian areas and supporting the occurrences of the Preble's meadow jumping mouse (*Zapus hudsonius preblei*) and Ute ladies' tresses (*Spiranthes diluvialis*). There is minimal extension beyond the narrow riparian area as the surrounding habitat is not suitable for either species.

Primary Area 2,637.38 Acres 1,067.31 Hectares

## SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B4: Moderate Biodiversity Significance

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## Biodiversity Significance Comments

The site supports a fair (C-ranked) occurrence of the globally imperiled (G5T2/S1) and federally threatened Preble's meadow jumping mouse (*Zapus hudsonius preblei*) as well as a poor (D-ranked) occurrence of the globally imperiled (G2G3/S2) and federally threatened Ute's ladies' tresses (*Spiranthes diluvialis*) and Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*).

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

Element			Global	State	Driving
<u>State ID</u>	<u>State Scientific Name</u>	<u>State Common Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Site Rank</u>
21289	<i>Zapus hudsonius preblei</i>	Meadow Jumping Mouse Subsp	G5T2	S1	Yes
17998	<i>Spiranthes diluvialis</i>	Ute ladies' tresses	G2G3	S2	Yes
21249	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	Bald Eagle	G5	S1B,S3N	No

## 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.
180959	Peterson, S. 1993. Ute Ladies Tresses orchid ( <i>Spiranthes diluvialis</i> ) survey southern water supply project for Boulder, Larimer and Weld Counties prepared for Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District by Western Resources Development.

## ADDITIONAL TOPICS

### Additional Topics

No Data

## VERSION

Version Date 10/30/2008  
Version Author Siemers, J.L.

## Disclaimer

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