

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Sawmill Lakes

Site Code S.USCOHP*27978

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 2666 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 403135N
State Colorado Longitude 1063744W

Quad Code Quad Name

40106-E6 Buffalo Pass
40106-E5 Teal Lake

County

Jackson (CO)

<u>Watershed Code</u>	<u>Watershed Name</u>
10180001	North Platte Headwaters

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	8,700.00 Feet	2,651.76 Meters
Maximum Elevation	9,400.00 Feet	2,865.12 Meters

Site Description

The Sawmill Lake site is located on the east side of the Park Range in Jackson County. The site is a glaciated basin that is bordered on each side by moraines. The site encompasses several large basin fens created by stagnant glaciers that had become buried in glacial drift during the Pinedale and Bull Lake glaciation. The herbaceous-dominated wetlands surround open water ponds. The wetlands are dominated by sedges (*Carex lasiocarpa*, *C. aquatilis*, *C. limosa*, *C. utriculata*) and cottongrasses (*Eriophorum gracile*, *E. angustifolium*). Round-leaf sundew (*Drosera rotundifolia*) is found with several species of *Sphagnum* (*S. warnstorffii*, *S. teres*, *S. squarrosum*, and *S. fimbriatum*) within the sedge mats along with purple cinquefoil (*Comarum palustre*). Ponds support water lilies (*Nuphar lutea* ssp. *polysepala*), buckbean (*Menyanthes trifoliata*), small bur-reed (*Sparganium natans*) and bladderwort (*Utricularia minor*). The uplands surrounding the wetland complex are dominated by lodgepole pine (*Pinus contorta*) and Engelmann spruce (*Picea engelmannii*). The hydrology of the area is driven primarily by melting snowpack that trickles down through glacial strata, then emerges on the surface as groundwater discharge. The site is defined as a fen due to the presence of water logged spongy ground and the formation of organic soils or histosols. Histosols are organic soils formed by slow accumulation of plant debris in waterlogged situations where it cannot decompose and accumulates as peat. Water analysis performed in 2005 by the Forest Service classifies this wetland as an intermediate poor fen with relatively low pH (4.9-5.5) and low cation concentrations. Amphibians that are known to occur in the ponds are boreal toad (*Bufo boreas*), wood frog (*Rana sylvatica*), and the striped chorus frog (*Pseudacris triseriata*). The upland vegetation consists of lodgepole pine (*Pinus contorta*) forests that have been severely impacted by the mountain pine beetle (*Dendroctonus* spp.).

Key Environmental Factors

Groundwater discharge and the presence of peat accumulation.

Climate Description

No Data

Land Use History

Current and past logging and domestic cattle grazing.

Cultural Features

No Data

SITE DESIGN

Site Map Y - Yes Mapped Date 10/26/2009
Designer Culver, D.R.

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Boundary Justification

The boundary encompasses the immediate watershed that contains all of the wetland dependent botanical species found within the kettle lake basin that is located between Forest Service Roads 60 and 20.

Primary Area 3,251.87 Acres 1,315.99 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

The site supports a plethora of state rare plants that only occur in fens. These species include an excellent (A-ranked) occurrence of the state imperiled (G5/S1) slender sedge (*Carex lasiocarpa*), an excellent (A-ranked) occurrence of the state rare (G5/S2) slender cottongrass (*Eriophorum gracile*), an excellent (A-ranked) occurrence of the state rare (G5/S2) lesser bladderwort (*Utricularia minor*), an excellent (A-ranked) occurrence of the state rare (G5/S2) roundleaf sundew (*Drosera rotundifolia*) and an excellent (A-ranked) occurrence of the state rare (G5/S2) mud sedge (*Carex limosa*). There is also an excellent (A-ranked) occurrence of the state imperiled (G4?/S1) *Carex lasiocarpa* montane wetland. Wood frogs (*Rana sylvatica*) and boreal toads (*Bufo boreas*) have been documented in the area, but the site was not designed for these amphibians.

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

A few areas with Canada thistle (*Breca arvensis*) were noted.

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>
18619	<i>Eriophorum gracile</i>	slender cottongrass	G5	S2	Yes
18494	<i>Utricularia minor</i>	lesser bladderwort	G5	S2	Yes
23578	<i>Drosera rotundifolia</i>	roundleaf sundew	G5	S2	Yes
22458	<i>Carex limosa</i>	mud sedge	G5	S2	Yes
21816	<i>Carex lasiocarpa</i> Herbaceous Vegetation	Montane Wetland	G4?	S1	Yes
23259	<i>Carex lasiocarpa</i>	slender sedge	G5	S1	Yes

REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
198407	Culver, D.R., K. Decker, J. Parker, J. Bell, J. Sovell, and J. Huggins. 2010. CNHP Final Report: Identification and Assessment of Important Wetlands within the North Platte Watershed, CO. Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Fort Collins, CO.

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date 10/26/2009

Version Author Culver, D.R.

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