

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name South Fork South Platte Fen

Site Code S.USCOHP8*3574

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 505 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 390320N
State Colorado Longitude 1055812W

Quad Code Quad Name

39105-A8 Garo

County

Park (CO)

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

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	9,100.00 Feet	2,774.00 Meters
Maximum Elevation	9,200.00 Feet	2,804.00 Meters

Site Description

The upper, north end of this site supports a well-developed peatland with scattered blue spruce, with a deep ditch running down the middle of it. The state rare plants (silver willow-Salix candida, and others) and plant communities (fen communities such as Kobresia myosuroides-Thalictrum alpinum) on this northern end appear robust despite the ditch, probably because they still receive sufficient groundwater. This northern section is not currently heavily grazed, if grazed at all. Immediately south of the spruce trees is a small reservoir and patches of sedge meadow with only a few signs of extreme rich fen plants. This area was likely an extension of the peatland to the north, but it has been significantly altered by hydrologic modifications and grazing. Finally, on the southern end of the PCA there is a series of wetlands with small but well-developed examples of extreme rich fen plant communities. Several elements occur in the southern end as well, but most show signs of heavy, deleterious impacts from cattle. Surrounding lands are all mesic to dry grasslands. A small ranch with both cattle and horses operates on the west side of the site. The west bank of the river, which is included in the PCA, is a public fishing access area.

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 01/20/1996

Designer Sanderson, J.S.

Boundary Justification

The site boundary includes the upper, northern end of the fen, as well as the lower, southern end of the fen. It also includes the area in between that certainly was formerly continuous fen but is now a reservoir, some fill, and heavily grazed pasture (and virtually no elements are present in the middle section). The boundary also includes the seeps and springs upstream of the fen. The eastern boundary is the South Platte River (the area between the fen and the river is continuous wetland). 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.

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Primary Area 280.95 Acres

113.70 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site contains fair (C-ranked) occurrences of extreme rich fens (*Kobresia simpliciuscula*-*Trichophorum pumilum* and *Kobresia myosuroides*-*Thalictrum alpinum*) that are globally imperiled but state critically imperiled (G2S1). It also contains several plant species which are critically imperiled or imperiled in Colorado.

Other Values Rank No Data

Other Values Comments

No Data

LAND MANAGEMENT ISSUES

Land Use Comments

A small ranch with both cattle and horses operates on the west side of the site and in the middle portion of what was likely formerly fen. A small vacation(?) home sits almost adjacent to the site to the southwest. The southern portion of the site is heavily grazed by a large operation. The west bank of the river, which is included in the site, is a public fishing access area.

Natural Hazard Comments

No Data

Exotics Comments

A few adventive species in adjacent wet meadows and uplands, but the fen is largely weed free.

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>
21103	<i>Carex viridula</i>	green sedge	G5	S1	No
22057	<i>Primula egalikensis</i>	Greenland primrose	G4	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
24026	<i>Salix myrtilifolia</i>	low blueberry willow	G5	S1	No
24977	<i>Kobresia simpliciuscula</i> - <i>Trichophorum pumilum</i> Saturated Herbaceous Vegetation	Extreme Rich Fen	G2	S1	Yes
23155	<i>Eleocharis quinqueflora</i> Herbaceous Vegetation	Alpine Wetlands	G4	S3S4	No
24980	<i>Kobresia myosuroides</i> - <i>Thalictrum alpinum</i> Herbaceous Vegetation	Extreme Rich Fens	G2	S1	Yes
17508	<i>Packera pauciflora</i>	few-flowered ragwort	G4G5	S1S2	No

REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
-	No Data

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date 06/30/2003

Version Author Bell, J.B.

Disclaimer

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