

# Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name South Jefferson

Site Code S.USCOHP8\*3503

## IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 2030 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 392140N  
State Colorado Longitude 1054825W

Quad Code Quad Name  
39105-C7 Milligan Lakes

County  
Park (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name  
10190001 South Platte Headwaters

## SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	9,400.00 Feet	2,865.00 Meters
Maximum Elevation	9,500.00 Feet	2,896.00 Meters

### Site Description

The core of the site is a peatland, an extreme rich fen, with many disjunct boreal plant species, no trees, and only low shrubs. The significant elements occur in an area with large hummocks, with a *Kobresia myosuroides* - *Thalictrum alpinum* plant association, and with high (10%) cover of the globally imperiled Porter feathergrass (*Ptilagrostis porteri*). Adjacent wetlands are wet meadows containing *Juncus ater*, *Carex* spp., and other common species. Surrounding uplands are primarily montane shortgrass prairie. The site lies between Jefferson and Michigan creeks, and is apparently supported by groundwater flowing in from the northwest. The only flowing water at the site is in a human-made ditch that slices from north to south through the site. A significant portion of this wetland (90% of the peatland, estimated 30+ acres) has been drastically altered by peat mining. It probably formerly held more of the significant elements than are currently present. The site hydrology is no longer entirely natural, mainly because of the ditch running through the site. However, the groundwater hydrology that is the main supporter of the elements appears sufficiently intact to support the elements.

### 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 01/11/1995

Designer Sanderson, J.S.

### Boundary Justification

The boundary to the northwest (the assumed direction of water input) was drawn to include a wet meadow area that abuts Highway 285. 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 119.73 Acres 48.45 Hectares

## SITE SIGNIFICANCE

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Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

## Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site contains a fair (C-ranked) occurrence of a plant community which is imperiled on a global scale (G2/S1), *Kobresia myosuroides* - *Thalictrum alpinum*, and a fair (C-ranked) occurrence of a globally imperiled (G2/S2) plant, Porter feathergrass (*Ptilagrostis porteri*). The wetland community is dependent on peat accumulation and would be difficult to restore it to good or excellent condition.

Other Values Rank No Data

## Other Values Comments

No Data

## LAND MANAGEMENT ISSUES

### Land Use Comments

Much of the peatland has been mined. No cattle were seen on the site, but it is probably also grazed at some time in the year.

### Natural Hazard Comments

None.

### Exotics Comments

Very few exotic species present, and these have little cover.

### Offsite

Hydrologic modifications upslope from the site could affect the elements.

### 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>
24980	<i>Kobresia myosuroides</i> - <i>Thalictrum alpinum</i> Herbaceous Vegetation	Extreme Rich Fens	G2	S1	Yes
19684	<i>Ptilagrostis porteri</i>	Porter feathergrass	G2	S2	Yes

## REFERENCES

### Reference ID

### Full Citation

-

No Data

## ADDITIONAL TOPICS

### Additional Topics

No Data

## VERSION

Version Date 03/28/2001

Version Author Culver, D.R.

## Disclaimer

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