

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Spottlewood Creek

Site Code S.USCOHP*25330

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 2182 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 405316N
State Colorado Longitude 1050025W

Quad Code Quad Name

40104-G8	Carr SW
40105-H1	Round Butte
40105-G1	Buckeye
40104-H8	Carr West

County

Larimer (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name

10190007 Cache La Poudre

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	5,700.00 Feet	1,737.36 Meters
Maximum Elevation	5,800.00 Feet	1,767.84 Meters

Site Description

Striking wetlands occur on Spottlewood Creek and its tributaries in the southeastern portion of the Meadow Springs Ranch. The wetlands support a wide range of native wetland species including Nebraska sedge (*Carex nebrascensis*), clustered field sedge (*C. praegracilis*), Baltic rush (*Juncus balticus*), hardstem bulrush (*Schoenoplectus acutus*), threesquare bulrush (*Schoenoplectus pungens*), cattail (*Typha latifolia*), and brookgrass (*Catabrosa aquatica*). Open water ponds and marshy areas house northern leopard frogs (*Rana pipiens*), a Colorado Division of Wildlife species of special concern. Dragonflies and damselflies are abundant around the open water. Additionally, Common Snipe, Red-winged Blackbirds, and a variety of duck species have been observed at the ponds. The wetlands are supported by a series of seeps and springs. The hydrologic regime supporting the seeps and springs appears to be generally unaltered by human modifications. The wetlands also appear to be relatively unaffected by cattle grazing (banks are not trampled and there is no hummocking of soils). The wetland occurs within rolling hills of shortgrass prairie and fourwing saltbush (*Atriplex canescens*) shrublands. Some flat areas within the wetland support salt tolerant species including saltgrass (*Distichlis spicata*) and sea milkwort (*Glaux maritima*).

Key Environmental Factors

No Data

Climate Description

No Data

Land Use History

Human modifications of the area include channelization of the stream into a culvert beneath the railroad tracks and a little traveled dirt road leading to the wetland. Additionally, portions of the watershed are used by the City of Fort Collins for land application of biosolids.

Cultural Features

No Data

SITE DESIGN

Site Map Y - Yes Mapped Date 01/26/2005

Designer Doyle, G.A.

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the wetland community element occurrences and associated seeps and springs upstream from the occurrences. The boundary represents a 1,000-foot buffer around the channel and seeps

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and springs. Keate (2004), Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, indicates a 1,000 to 2,000-foot buffer as the distance where impacts to associated wildlife may be minimal.

Primary Area 1,432.30 Acres 579.64 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site supports good (B-ranked) occurrences of a mosaic of wetland plant communities including the globally vulnerable (G3G4) clustered sedge (*Carex praegracilis*) community. Other wetland communities included in the mosaic include globally common Baltic rush (*Juncus balticus*) and Nebraska sedge (*Carex nebrascensis*) communities. Although these wetlands are occupied by common plant communities they are nonetheless of biological interest as they provide good examples of prairie wetlands and provide a refugia for a variety of wildlife. Most prairie wetland complexes have been altered by heavy cattle grazing, spring development, reservoir construction, or invasion by non-native species, thus this site is a good example of a prairie wetland.

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

The noxious weed Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*) dominates in small patches. Non-native Kentucky bluegrass (*Poa pratensis*) is ubiquitous throughout the wetland but is not dominant. Other non-native plants noted within the wetland include yellow sweetclover (*Melilotus officinale*), meadow foxtail (*Alopecurus pratensis*), and pennycress (*Thlapsi arvense*).

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>
18593	<i>Carex praegracilis</i> Herbaceous Vegetation	Clustered Sedge Wetland	G3G4	S2	Yes
22403	<i>Carex nebrascensis</i> Herbaceous Vegetation	Wet Meadows	G4	S3	No
24138	<i>Juncus balticus</i> Herbaceous Vegetation	Western Slope Wet Meadows	G5	S5	No

REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
192692	Doyle, G.A., S.L. Neid and R.J. Rondeau. 2005. Final Report: Survey of Critical Biological Resources, Larimer County, Colorado. Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Fort Collins, CO.
192813	Keate, Nancy S. 2004. Bibliography of Impacts to Wetlands II - Draft - revised - Jan 2004. Utah Wetland Outreach, Wildlife Resources, Utah Department of Natural Resources.
192830	Meyer, D. 2005. Personal Communication. January 18 email from Meyer, City of Fort Collins Utilities to G. Doyle, CNHP, re: Federal and State regulations for biosolids disposal.

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

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VERSION

Version Date 01/26/2005

Version Author Doyle, G.A.

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