

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Strawberry Creek at Caribou Trail

Site Code S.USCOHP*25923

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 2308 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 400412N
State Colorado Longitude 1054601W

<u>Quad Code</u>	<u>Quad Name</u>
40105-A7	Strawberry Lake
40105-A6	Monarch Lake

County

Grand (CO)

<u>Watershed Code</u>	<u>Watershed Name</u>
14010001	Colorado headwaters

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	9,475.00 Feet	2,887.98 Meters
Maximum Elevation	9,975.00 Feet	3,040.38 Meters

Site Description

Communities inhabit small to large open meadows along Strawberry Creek. Hydrology is dependent on Strawberry Creek, a small, free-flowing stream that forms multiple rivulets and ponds in the meadow as well as groundwater discharges along the drainage. Some areas along the drainage were inhabited by beaver in the past creating diverse hydrologic gradients throughout the larger meadow. Vegetation is variable along the drainage with some meadows being shrub dominated and others being dominated by graminoid species. The most common shrub found in the drainage is diamondleaf willow (*Salix planifolia*). Graminoids which are dominant in many areas include water sedge (*Carex aquatilis*), beaked sedge (*Carex utriculata*), bluejoint reedgrass (*Calamagrostis canadensis*), and fewflower spikerush (*Eleocharis quinqueflora*). Forb species are also present including white marsh marigold (*Caltha leptosepala*), arrowleaf ragwort (*Senecio triangularis*), and redpod stonecrop (*Rhodiola rhodantha*), but are not dominant in any areas. There is little to no anthropogenic disturbance in the area besides the small, little used Caribou Trail along the northern edge of the creek. Geology consists of igneous rocks of the Precambrian Age, specifically, granitic rocks of 1,700 MYA. Mesic soils are variable throughout with some areas of deep histic epipedons over silty clay loam and buried peat layers and small, groundwater fed areas of well-developed peat.

Key Environmental Factors

Key environmental factors influencing the biota of the drainage and its contingent elements include perennial hydrology of surface flows and groundwater discharge, spring flooding, and water retaining clayey soil structure.

Climate Description

Climate patterns likely follow typical weather patterns for this region of Colorado being generally xeric throughout the year with a wet spring season and late summer "monsoons".

Land Use History

No Data

Cultural Features

No Data

SITE DESIGN

Site Map Y - Yes Mapped Date 11/26/2005
Designer Jones, J.R.

Boundary Justification

Boundaries encompass approximately one mile of Upper Strawberry Creek and include buffered upland areas and hydrologic processes important to the maintenance of species composition including surface

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flows, groundwater recharge and discharge, and spring flooding. However, boundaries do not include all ecological processes necessary to the maintenance of site stability and hydrology and activities such as improper grazing, development, or water diversions may impact site hydrology and biota.

Primary Area 250.90 Acres 101.53 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B3: High Biodiversity Significance

Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site is drawn for an excellent (A-ranked) occurrence of a globally vulnerable to globally apparently secure (G3G4/S2) plant community, diamondleaf willow / beaked sedge (*Salix planifolia* / *Carex utriculata*) subalpine riparian willow carr, an excellent (A-ranked) occurrence of a globally apparently secure (G4/S2S3) plant community, diamondleaf willow / bluejoint reedgrass (*Salix planifolia* / *Calamagrostis canadensis*), and an excellent (A-ranked) occurrence of a globally apparently secure (G4/S3S4) plant community, fewflower spikerush (*Eleocharis quinqueflora*) herbaceous vegetation.

Other Values Rank V2 - High values

Other Values Comments

This site provides high values including aesthetic and recreational values as well as wildlife habitat, and ecosystem health values such as aquifer recharge, water retention, and sediment storage.

LAND MANAGEMENT ISSUES

Land Use Comments

No Data

Natural Hazard Comments

Hummocky peat soils may cause difficult walking.

Exotics Comments

Currently, elements along the drainage do not support exotic species; however, adjacent trail adjoins to a well-traveled forest road and may act as a conduit for exotic species.

Offsite

Off-site considerations include logging, road maintenance and development, and a man-made reservoir above the site, which may increase groundwater levels and enhance groundwater discharge.

Information Needs

No Data

ASSOCIATED ELEMENTS OF BIODIVERSITY

<u>Element State ID</u>	<u>State Scientific Name</u>	<u>State Common Name</u>	<u>Global Rank</u>	<u>State Rank</u>	<u>Driving Site Rank</u>
24805	<i>Salix planifolia</i> / <i>Calamagrostis canadensis</i> Shrubland	Subalpine Riparian Willow Carr	G4	S2S3	No
23155	<i>Eleocharis quinqueflora</i> Herbaceous Vegetation	Alpine Wetlands	G4	S3S4	No
24576	<i>Salix planifolia</i> / <i>Carex utriculata</i> Shrubland	Diamondleaf Willow / Beaked Sedge	GNR	S2	Yes

REFERENCES

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<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
160903	Carsey, K., D. Cooper, K. Decker, D. Culver, and G. Kittel. 2003. Statewide wetlands classification and characterization: Wetland plant associations of Colorado. Prepared for Colorado Department of Natural Resources, Denver, CO by Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Fort Collins, CO.
193632	Culver, D.R. and Jones, J.R. 2006. Final Report: Survey of Critical Biological Resources in Grand County. Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Fort Collins, CO.
160140	Dorn, R. D. 1997. Rocky Mountain Region Willow Identification Field Guide. Renewable Resources R2-RR-97-01. Denver, CO: USDA, Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Region. 107p.
167224	Hurd, E.G., N.L. Shaw, J. Mastroguiseppe, L.C. Smithman, and S. Goodrich. 1998. Field Guide to Intermountain Sedges. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rocky Mountain Research Station, Ogden, UT.
192747	Tweto, O. 1979. Geologic Map of Colorado, 1:500,000. United States Geological Survey, Department of Interior, and Geologic Survey of Colorado, Denver, CO.
193553	USDA, NRCS. 2005. The PLANTS Database, Version 3.5 (http://plants.usda.gov). Data compiled from various sources by Mark W. Skinner. National Plant Data Center < http://npdc.usda.gov/ >, Baton Rouge, LA 70874-4490 USA. Accessed 2005.
172684	Weber, W.A. and R.C. Wittmann. 2001. Colorado Flora: Western Slope, Third Edition. University Press of Colorado, Niwot, CO.

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date 11/26/2005

Version Author Jones, J.R.

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