

# Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Terrace Ponds

Site Code S.USCOHP\*6521

## IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 1468 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 405336N  
State Colorado Longitude 1055530W

Quad Code Quad Name  
40105-H8 Crazy Mountain

County  
Larimer (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name  
10180010 Upper Laramie

## SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	7,990.00 Feet	2,435.35 Meters
Maximum Elevation	8,040.00 Feet	2,450.59 Meters

### Site Description

The area east of the Laramie River just north of Four Corners is apparently a large river terrace formed during the Ice Age (the Pleistocene). The area is mostly flat with shallow depressions (probably formed by wind erosion) and gentle slopes rising from the wet, low areas. The depressions intercept a high water table, forming a few permanent shallow water bodies. Most of the permanent water bodies appear heavily impacted by cattle, but one appears to contain very robust emergent communities in excellent condition. The wet (often flooded) meadow between the ponds contains both native and non-native communities. The native communities consist largely of species that succeed under intense grazing, e.g. Nebraska sedge (*Carex nebrascensis*) and Baltic rush (*Juncus balticus*), while foxtail barley (*Hordeum jubatum*) completely dominates some areas.

### Key Environmental Factors

No Data

### Climate Description

No Data

### Land Use History

No Data

### Cultural Features

No Data

## SITE DESIGN

Site Map P - Partial Mapped Date 12/01/1996  
Designer Sanderson, J.S.

### Boundary Justification

The boundary encompasses all the ponds on this one large terrace and all contiguous wetlands. A buffer of 300 ft. or slightly more is designated to protect the wetlands from direct impacts from vehicles, grazing animals, etc., as well as indirect impacts from water runoff from disturbed areas. The buffer is designed to also provide security for nesting and migrating waterfowl and shorebirds.

Primary Area 983.70 Acres 398.09 Hectares

## SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B4: Moderate Biodiversity Significance

### Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site supports two occurrences of good (B-ranked) quality, state imperiled wetland communities; *Schoenoplectus maritimus* (G4/S2) and *Schoenoplectus acutus* - *Typha latifolia* - (*Schoenoplectus*

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*tabernaemontani*) (G4/S2S3). The two communities are globally secure and widespread across North America, but in Colorado they are uncommon and considered imperiled (as are many wetland communities). Good examples of these communities are quite rare in Colorado, and very rare in Larimer County. Terrace Ponds contains by far the best example of both of these communities in Larimer County. These wetlands also have high value for migrating and nesting waterfowl and shorebirds.

Other Values Rank No Data

## Other Values Comments

No Data

## LAND MANAGEMENT ISSUES

### Land Use Comments

The site is privately owned and used for livestock (bison?). We are not aware of any formal protection provided to the wetlands.

### Natural Hazard Comments

No Data

### Exotics Comments

No Data

### Offsite

Hydrologic modifications off-site may affect the elements.

### Information Needs

No Data

## ASSOCIATED ELEMENTS OF BIODIVERSITY

Element			Global	State	Driving
State ID	State Scientific Name	State Common Name	Rank	Rank	Site Rank
18046	<i>Schoenoplectus maritimus</i> Herbaceous Vegetation	Emergent Wetland (Marsh)	G4	S2	Yes
24564	<i>Schoenoplectus acutus</i> - <i>Typha latifolia</i> - ( <i>Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani</i> ) Sandhills Herbaceous Vegetation	Great Plains Marsh	G4	S2S3	Yes

## REFERENCES

Reference ID	Full Citation
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.
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.
166568	Kettler, S., J. Sanderson, S. Spackman, K. Fayette, C. Pague, D. Clark, and A. Hicks. 1996. Final Report: Significant plant, animal, and wetland resources of Larimer County and their conservation. Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Fort Collins, CO.

## ADDITIONAL TOPICS

### Additional Topics

No Data

## VERSION

Version Date	12/01/1996
Version Author	Sanderson, J.S.

## Disclaimer

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