

# Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Vestal Lake

Site Code S.USCOHP\*23794

## IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 469 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 374154N  
State Colorado Longitude 1073553W

Quad Code Quad Name  
37107-F5 Storm King Peak

County  
San Juan (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name  
14080104 Animas

## SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	11,400.00 Feet	3,475.00 Meters
Maximum Elevation	12,200.00 Feet	3,719.00 Meters

### Site Description

This site is located in the Grenadier Range, north of Vestal Lake along an un-named tributary of Elk Creek. It is north of several high peaks, including Vestal Peak, Trinity Peaks, Arrow Peak, Electric Peak, and Graystone Peak. The subalpine willow carr was surveyed as part of the CNHP riparian survey of 1994. The drainage from Vestal Lake runs from several small lakes, between very sharp, barren rock 13,800 foot peaks on the south and a 12,900 foot ridge on the north. Lower slopes are lined with spruce and fir. Wider areas of the valley bottom contain an alpine willow carr community, with shrub cover of planeleaf willow was estimated at 100%. Forb cover was 70%, and included *Caltha leptosepala*, *Senecio triangularis*, *Mertensia ciliata*, *Delphinium barbeyi*, and *Cardamine cordifolia*. *Calamagrostis canadensis* was the major graminoid present with 30% cover. Farther upstream, where the drainage is narrower, the community shifts from willow dominated to sedge and forb dominated, although willows are still present at about 20% cover. Here, forbs include *Caltha leptosepala* as the dominant species, with *Eriophorum angustifolium*, *Carex saxatilis*, *Calamagrostis canadensis*, *Carex illota*, *C. magellanica* and *Festuca brachyphylla*. Mosses account for 63% cover beneath the vascular plants.

### 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 12/13/2002  
Designer Lyon, M.J.

### Boundary Justification

The boundary is drawn to include the two high quality plant communities along the creek, and a small amount of the valley sides that drain into the creek and can affect water quality and siltation.

Primary Area 196.20 Acres 79.40 Hectares

## SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B4: Moderate Biodiversity Significance

### Biodiversity Significance Comments

The site supports excellent (A-ranked) occurrences of two globally common (G4/S4) wetland plant

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communities. Both communities are typical of the vegetation along mountain streams in the area. High quality occurrences such as these can provide excellent reference areas.

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

No Data

## 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>
16989	<i>Caltha leptosepala</i> Herbaceous Vegetation	Montane Wet Meadows	G4	S4	Yes
24836	<i>Salix planifolia</i> / <i>Caltha leptosepala</i> Shrubland	Subalpine Riparian Willow Carr	G4	S4	Yes

### REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
163571	Lyon, P. and D. Culver. 2002. Colorado Natural Heritage Program Field Surveys.

### ADDITIONAL TOPICS

## Additional Topics

No Data

### VERSION

Version Date 12/13/2002

Version Author Lyon, M.J.

### Disclaimer

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