

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Willow Park

Site Code S.USCOHP1*2499

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 1811 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 402821N
State Colorado Longitude 1063614W

<u>Quad Code</u>	<u>Quad Name</u>
40106-D5	Rabbit Ears Peak
40106-D6	Mount Werner

County

Jackson (CO)

<u>Watershed Code</u>	<u>Watershed Name</u>
10180001	North Platte Headwaters

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation	8,750.00 Feet	2,667.00 Meters
Maximum Elevation	9,000.00 Feet	2,743.20 Meters

Site Description

Willow Park site is located in the Park Range in North Park. Colorado Creek meanders through the site. Above Colorado Creek, there are several kettle ponds that were formed by stranded glaciers during the Pinedale and Bull Lake Glaciation Period. The glaciers became stranded and melted, creating ponds that are surrounded by floating sedge mats. These wetlands support a population of roundleaf sundew (*Drosera rotundifolia*), a carnivorous plant associated with nutrient poor soils and acidic water. Sundew occurs on floating mats that are held together with woolly-fruit sedge (*Carex lasiocarpa*), water sedge (*Carex aquatilis*), beaked sedge (*Carex utriculata*), bluejoint reedgrass (*Calamagrostis canadensis*), marsh cinquefoil (*Comarum palustre*) and tufted hairgrass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*). The ponds support a large population of water lilies (*Nuphar lutea* ssp. *polysepala*) and buck bean (*Menyanthes trifoliata*). The uplands surrounding the wetland complex are dominated by lodgepole pine (*Pinus contorta*) and Engelmann spruce (*Picea engelmannii*). The hydrology of the area is driven primarily by melting snowpack that trickles down through glacial strata then emerges on the surface as groundwater discharge. The site is defined as a fen due to the presence of water logged spongy ground and the formation of organic soils or histosols. Histosols are organic soils formed by slow accumulation of plant debris in waterlogged situations where it cannot decompose and accumulates as peat. Water analysis performed by the Forest Service in 2005 classifies this wetland as an intermediate poor fen with a relatively low pH (4.7-5.6) and low cation concentration.

Key Environmental Factors

The presence of groundwater discharge and histosols are indicative of fens.

Climate Description

No Data

Land Use History

Grazing and logging occur in adjacent areas. One of the ponds has been bermed for cattle.

Cultural Features

No Data

SITE DESIGN

Site Map Y - Yes Mapped Date 12/14/2009
Designer Culver, D.R.

Boundary Justification

The boundary encompasses the kettle ponds and a buffer to protect against direct disturbance from anthropogenic activities such as timber harvest.

Primary Area	1,842.87 Acres	745.79 Hectares
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SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B5: General Biodiversity Interest

Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site supports a fair (C-ranked) occurrence of the state imperiled (G5/S2) roundleaf sundew (*Drosera rotundifolia*) and a fair (C-ranked) occurrence of the state imperiled (G4?/S1) woolly fruit sedge (*Carex lasiocarpa*) herbaceous vegetation. Although not drawn for this species, the state rare (G5/S3) northern leopard frog (*Rana pipiens*) has been documented in the area.

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

Maintaining natural hydrologic regime will be important. Also need to maintain feeding habitat and other element populations not included in site.

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>
23578	<i>Drosera rotundifolia</i>	roundleaf sundew	G5	S2	Yes
21816	<i>Carex lasiocarpa</i> Herbaceous Vegetation	Montane Wetland	G4?	S1	Yes

REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
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.

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

Original site design by Ellingson, A.R. 1994-01-12. Revised by Culver, D.R. 2008-12-19.

VERSION

Version Date 12/14/2009

Version Author Culver, D.R.

Disclaimer

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