

Critical Wildlife Habitat #2

Year Revised: 2013

Year Established: 1994

Common Name: Copeland Willow Carr

Critical Wildlife Habitat Criteria:

Vital SSC Habitat: X

Wildlife Concentration:

Unique Biodiversity: X

Location (General): Located at intersection of SH 7 and CR 115 inside Rocky Mountain National Park.

Designation Description: Copeland Willow Carr is a rare riparian shrubland community along North St. Vrain Creek, located on the Eastern edge of Rocky Mountain National Park. It is the largest willow carr on the Front Range. It supports possibly the highest density of breeding neotropical migratory birds in the Front Range. This site is part of a much larger natural area encompassing the entire North St. Vrain canyon — the only un-roaded large canyon system in the Front Range. American beaver are present and active on the site.

Key Species:

SSC Known Occurrence: Avian and Small Mammal biodiversity; American Beaver (*Castor canadensis*).

SSC Potential Occurrence (within habitat area):

Threats to Species or Habitat: Willow carrs are rare and sensitive habitats which are vulnerable to activities such as development, domestic animal grazing, and recreational activities such as OHV use, campgrounds or hiking trails placed inside the habitat, as well as construction of reservoirs, peat extraction and road construction. This site has residences, roads, NPS fee station/parking lot, trails, and heavy recreational hiking and equestrian use. Generic threats to American Beaver include trapping for sport or direct removal of dams or individuals.

Habitat Descriptions:

Habitat (General): Glaciated valley of Wild Basin within Rocky Mountain National Park. Wetland and riparian areas dominated by willows, alder, birch, sedges and grasses mixed with ponded water from beaver dams. Scattered conifers are present. North St. Vrain Creek flows through site.

Southwest Regional Gap Analysis Project Landcover Types: Rocky Mountain Ponderosa Pine Woodland, Rocky Mountain Lodgepole Pine Forest, Rocky Mountain Subalpine-Montane Riparian Shrubland, Rocky Mountain Montane Mesic Mixed Conifer Forest and Woodland, Rocky Mountain Montane Dry-Mesic Mixed Conifer Forest and Woodland, Inter-Mountain West Aspen-Mixed Conifer Forest and Woodland Complex, Rocky Mountain Subalpine-Montane Riparian Woodland, Open Water, Rocky Mountain Alpine-Montane Wet Meadow, Inter-Mountain Basins Montane Sagebrush Steppe, Rocky Mountain Cliff and Canyon, Rocky Mountain Aspen Forest and Woodland.

Size: 432 acres

Elevation: 8282-8814 feet (Mean = 8398 feet)

Life Zone: Montane

Ownership: (Private: X Public: X)

Comments: NPS, City of Longmont, and private property.

Current Resource Protection and Management Designations:

See the Rocky Mountain National Park management plan.

Information Sources and References: Contact Boulder County Parks and Open Space Resource Management staff for a list of information sources and references compiled to create this Critical Wildlife Habitat description.

Critical Wildlife Habitat #4

Year Revised: 2013

Year Established: 1983

Common Name: Deadman Gulch and South St. Vrain

Critical Wildlife Habitat Criteria:

Vital SSC Habitat: X

Wildlife Concentration:

Unique Biodiversity:

Location (General): Located along SH7 roughly between Coffintop Gulch and Deadman's Gulch intersections with South St. Vrain Creek.

Designation Description: Rock cliff ledge habitat along the South St. Vrain Canyon supporting several Golden Eagle nests. Rocky spires and steep, rolling terrain with ponderosa pine forest and riparian small riparian systems.

Key Species:

SSC Known Occurrence: Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*)

SSC Potential Occurrence (within habitat area): Hops Feeding Azure, American Badger, Big Brown Bat, Hoary Bat, Silver-haired Bat, Townsend's Big-eared Bat, Beaver, Indigo Bunting, Lazuli Bunting, Bushtit, Colorado Chipmunk, Uinta Chipmunk, Lake Darter, American Dipper, Hudsonian Emerald Dragonfly, Mottled Duskywing, Moss's Elfin, American Emerald, Peregrin Falcon, Prairie Falcon, Northern Flicker, Willow Flycatcher, Gray Fox, Chorus Frog, Northern Pocket Gopher, White-tailed Jackrabbit, Belted Kingfisher, Northern Rock Mouse, Fringed Myotis, Little Brown Myotis, Western Small-footed Myotis, River Otter, Long-eared Owl, Mexican Spotted Owl, Northern Pygmy Owl, Band-tailed Pigeon, North American Porcupine, American Redstart, Ringtail, Tiger Salamander, Western Scrub-Jay, Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep, American Water Shrew, Dwarf Shrew, Merriam's Shrew, Snow's Skipper, Two-banded Checkered Skipper, Two-spotted Skipper, Milk Snake, Brewer's Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Sage Thrasher, Plumbeous Vireo, Heather Vole, Virginia's Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, Cedar Waxwing, Rock Wren

Threats to Species or Habitat: Golden Eagle are vulnerable to human encroachment near their nests sites during the breeding season, such as from climbing; disturbances can result in nest abandonment and negatively impact recruitment rates and population trends.

Habitat Descriptions:

Habitat (General): Rock cliffs and ledges on granite walls of South St. Vrain Canyon. Rocky spires and steep, rolling terrain with ponderosa pine forest and riparian small riparian systems.

Southwest Regional Gap Analysis Project Landcover Types: Rocky Mountain Ponderosa Pine Woodland, Rocky Mountain Montane Mesic Mixed Conifer Forest and Woodland, Rocky Mountain Lower Montane-Foothill Shrubland, Western Great Plains Foothill and Piedmont Grassland, Rocky Mountain Montane Dry-Mesic Mixed Conifer Forest and Woodland, Invasive Perennial Grassland, Developed, Open Space - Low Intensity, Recently Mined or Quarried, Rocky Mountain Alpine-Montane Wet Meadow.

Size: 509 acres

Elevation: 5635-6811 feet (Mean = 6199 feet)

Life Zone: Montane

Ownership: (Private: X Public: X)

Comments: USFS and private property.

Current Resource Protection and Management Designations:

See the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests Land and Resource Management Plan.

Information Sources and References: Contact Boulder County Parks and Open Space Resource Management staff for a list of information sources and references compiled to create this Critical Wildlife Habitat description.

Critical Wildlife Habitat #5

Year Revised: 2013

Year Established: 1983

Common Name: Steamboat Mountain

Critical Wildlife Habitat Criteria:

Vital SSC Habitat: X

Wildlife Concentration:

Unique Biodiversity:

Location (General): Northwest of the town of Lyons, extending roughly from the Eagle Canyon subdivision northward nearly to the Boulder County line.

Designation Description: Sandstone cliff formations rising above the N St. Vrain Creek serving as habitat for several rare cliff nesting raptor species of special concern.

Key Species:

SSC Known Occurrence: Prairie Falcon (*Falco mexicanus*); Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*); Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*)

SSC Potential Occurrence (within habitat area): Hops Feeding Azure, American Badger, Big Brown Bat, Hoary Bat, Silver-haired Bat, Townsend's Big-eared Bat, Beaver, Lazuli Bunting, Bushtit, Colorado Chipmunk, Uinta Chipmunk, Lake Darter, American Dipper, Hudsonian Emerald Dragonfly, Mottled Duskywing, American Emerald, Northern Flicker, Gray Fox, Chorus Frog, Northern Pocket Gopher, White-tailed Jackrabbit, Belted Kingfisher, Northern Rock Mouse, Fringed Myotis, Little Brown Myotis, Western Small-footed Myotis, River Otter, Long-eared Owl, Mexican Spotted Owl, Northern Pygmy Owl, Band-tailed Pigeon, North American Porcupine, Ringtail, Tiger Salamander, Western Scrub-Jay, Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep, American Water Shrew, Dwarf Shrew, Merriam's Shrew, Snow's Skipper, Two-banded Checkered Skipper, Two-spotted Skipper, Milk Snake, Brewer's Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Sage Thrasher, Plumbeous Vireo, Heather Vole, Virginia's Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, Rock Wren

Threats to Species or Habitat: Peregrine Falcon, Prairie Falcon and Golden Eagle are vulnerable to human encroachment near their nests sites during the breeding season, such as from climbing; disturbances can result in nest abandonment and negatively impact recruitment rates and population trends.

Habitat Descriptions:

Habitat (General): Rocky cliffs and surrounding shrublands, adjacent to the North Saint Vrain Creek.

Southwest Regional Gap Analysis Project Landcover Types: Rocky Mountain Lower Montane-Foothill Shrubland, Rocky Mountain Ponderosa Pine Woodland, Western Great Plains Foothill and Piedmont Grassland, Recently Mined or Quarried, Rocky Mountain Montane Dry-Mesic Mixed Conifer Forest and Woodland, Western Great Plains Riparian Woodland and Shrubland, Developed, Open Space - Low Intensity, Developed, Medium - High Intensity.

Size: 618 acres

Elevation: 5463-6566 feet (Mean = 6014 feet)

Life Zone: Montane

Ownership: (Private: X Public: X)

Comments: BCPOS Open Space, private property and town of Lyons.

Current Resource Protection and Management Designations:

See relevant BCPOS management plans.

Information Sources and References: Contact Boulder County Parks and Open Space Resource Management staff for a list of information sources and references compiled to create this Critical Wildlife Habitat description.

Critical Wildlife Habitat #7

Year Revised: 2013

Year Established: 1978

Common Name: St. Vrain Corridor

Critical Wildlife Habitat Criteria:

Vital SSC Habitat: X

Wildlife Concentration: X

Unique Biodiversity: X

Location (General): River channel and riparian habitat starting at Steamboat Mountain (N. St. Vrain) and Hall II (S. St. Vrain) and ending near N. 119th St., Longmont.

Designation Description: The Saint Vrain Creek and Riparian Corridor, including a short section of Lefthand Creek at the confluence with St. Vrain Creek. It is a well-developed complex cottonwood-willow gallery forest adjacent to rural agricultural lands. Adjacent lands include many reclaimed gravel pit ponds and well-developed riparian shrub habitats along ditches. Most important native small fish habitat in the Front Range--supporting one native fish under USFWS ESA review, one State Threatened species, and two State Special Concern species. Supports a known population of the threatened Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse and a diversity of Eagle and Heron nesting sites. Golden Eagle nesting site.

Key Species:

SSC Known Occurrence: Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*); Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*); Plains Topminnow (*Fundulus sciadicus*; ESA Rev.); Common Shiner (*Notropis cornutus*; CPW Threatened); Iowa Darter (*Etheostoma exile*; CPW SSC); Stonecat (*Noturus flavus*; CPW SSC); Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*); Black Tailed Prairie Dog (*Cynomys ludovicianus*); American Beaver (*Castor canadensis*); Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse (*Zapus hudsonius preblei*)*

SSC Potential Occurrence (within habitat area): American Avocet, Hops Feeding Azure, American Badger, Big Brown Bat, Brazilian Free-tailed Bat, Townsend's Big-eared Bat, Tricolored Bat, Beaver, American Bittern, Least Bittern, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Colorado Blue, Bobolink, Indigo Bunting, Lark Bunting, Lazuli Bunting, Bushtit, Colorado Chipmunk, Uinta Chipmunk, Hornyhead Chub, Long-billed Curlew, Johnny Darter, Mottled Duskywing, Great Egret, Moss's Elfin, Peregrine Falcon, Prairie Falcon, Chorus Frog, Northern Leopard Frog, Northern Harrier, Rough-legged Hawk, Black-crowned Night Heron, Brassy Minnow, Northern Mockingbird, Little Brown Myotis, River Otter, Ovenbird, Northern Pygmy Owl, Cylindrical Papershell, Banded Physa, North American Porcupine, American Redstart, Tiger Salamander, Bigmouth Shiner, Blacknose Shiner, Dwarf Shrew, Least Shrew, Common Garter Snake, Stonecat, Great Plains Toad, Plains Spadefoot Toad, Spiny Softshell Turtle, Cedar Waxwing.

Threats to Species or Habitat: Golden Eagle are vulnerable to human encroachment near their nests sites during the breeding season, such as from climbing; disturbances can result in nest abandonment and negatively impact recruitment rates and population trends. Bald Eagle are vulnerable to nest site encroachment and destruction of nesting trees, contamination of prey from pesticides and loss of prey base due to large-scale pest control programs. Plains Topminnow, Common Shiner, Iowa Darter and Stonecat are native fishes sensitive to siltation, loss of streamside vegetation or backwater breeding habitat, low-flow conditions, reduced water quality or increased water temperature and competition from exotic species such as the western mosquitofish (*Gambusia affinis*). Great Blue Heron are sensitive to the loss of nest site trees or excessive site encroachment, and survival of adults and young depend on prey from nearby high quality aquatic habitats producing fish and amphibians. Black Tailed Prairie Dogs are vulnerable to direct population declines from large-scale pest control programs and outbreaks of sylvatic plague, as well as conversion of prairie habitat to agriculture, urban development or recreational uses. Generic threats to American Beaver include trapping for sport or direct removal of dams or individuals. Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse are sensitive to riparian fragmentation and loss of structural diversity of the vegetation (e.g. shrubs). This area is highly developed with many on-channel ditch diversions, active grazing and agriculture, with roads and residences distributed throughout.

Habitat Descriptions:

Habitat (General): St. Vrain Creek stream corridor, cliff faces, cottonwood-willow riparian groves, adjacent reclaimed gravel ponds and grassland habitats.

Southwest Regional Gap Analysis Project Landcover Types: Agriculture, Western Great Plains Riparian Woodland and Shrubland, Rocky Mountain Lower Montane-Foothill Shrubland, Developed, Open Space - Low Intensity, Open Water, Developed, Medium - High Intensity, Western Great Plains Floodplain Herbaceous Wetland, Western Great Plains Foothill and Piedmont Grassland, Invasive Perennial Grassland, Rocky Mountain Ponderosa Pine Woodland, Rocky Mountain Alpine-Montane Wet Meadow, Rocky Mountain Montane Mesic Mixed Conifer Forest and Woodland, Western Great Plains Shortgrass Prairie.

Size: 2059 acres

Elevation: 4914-5769 feet (Mean = 5235 feet)

Life Zone: Plains

Ownership: (Private: ☒ Public: ☒)

Comments: BCPOS Open Space and CE, town of Lyons, city of Longmont.

Current Resource Protection and Management Designations:

See relevant BCPOS management plans.

Information Sources and References: Contact Boulder County Parks and Open Space Resource Management staff for a list of information sources and references compiled to create this Critical Wildlife Habitat description.

Critical Wildlife Habitat #8

Year Revised: 2013

Year Established: 1978

Common Name: Rabbit Mountain

Critical Wildlife Habitat Criteria:

Vital SSC Habitat: ☒

Wildlife Concentration: ☒

Unique Biodiversity: ☒

Location (General): Area located NE of the town of Lyons, roughly bounded by N 75th St. on the east, N 55th St. on the west, the Little Thompson River on the north and private land to the south.

Designation Description: Rare and intact shrubland community which is supporting relatively unfragmented and high-quality wildlife habitat. Long-documented nesting site of Golden Eagle, which are supported by adjacent prairie dog colony. Regionally important habitat for bird biodiversity, large mammal concentration, elk range, native reptile habitat and a source of native pollinators.

Key Species:

SSC Known Occurrence: Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*); Elk (*Cervus elaphus*) concentration; Avian biodiversity; Short-eared owl (*Asio flammeus*); Black Tailed Prairie Dog (*Cynomys ludovicianus*)

SSC Potential Occurrence (within habitat area): Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse

Threats to Species or Habitat: Golden Eagle are vulnerable to human encroachment near their nests sites during the breeding season, such as from climbing; disturbances can result in nest abandonment and negatively impact recruitment rates and population trends. Elk are sensitive to human development and encroachment as well as habitat degradation. Short-eared Owl are vulnerable to the loss of open grassland habitat of sufficient size for successful nesting, either by conversion to agriculture, overgrazing, recreation and development. Avian biodiversity is sensitive to fragmentation, loss of structural diversity or reduced habitat productivity. Black Tailed Prairie Dogs are vulnerable to direct population declines from large-scale pest control programs and outbreaks of sylvatic plague, as well as conversion of prairie habitat to agriculture, urban development or recreational uses. This area contains significant human presence from developed recreation and trail use on open space, as well as industrial use and maintenance of the Carter Lake Canal. There are numerous residences and agricultural operations on the periphery of this area.

Habitat Descriptions:

Habitat (General): Ponderosa pine woodlands, shrublands, and grasslands; Hogback formations; grassland habitat; riparian corridor.

Southwest Regional Gap Analysis Project Landcover Types: Rocky Mountain Lower Montane-Foothill Shrubland, Western Great Plains Foothill and Piedmont Grassland, Invasive Perennial Grassland, Agriculture, Western Great Plains Shortgrass Prairie, Rocky Mountain Ponderosa Pine Woodland, Western Great Plains Riparian Woodland and Shrubland, Developed, Open Space - Low Intensity, Developed, Medium - High Intensity, Western Great Plains Cliff and Outcrop, Western Great Plains Floodplain Herbaceous Wetland.

Size: 3380 acres

Elevation: 5197-6131 feet (Mean = 5559 feet)

Life Zone: Montane

Ownership: (Private: ☒ Public: ☒)

Comments: BCPOS Open Space and CE and private property.

Current Resource Protection and Management Designations:

See relevant BCPOS management plans.

Information Sources and References: Contact Boulder County Parks and Open Space Resource Management staff for a list of information sources and references compiled to create this Critical Wildlife Habitat description.

Critical Wildlife Habitat #10

Year Revised: 2013

Year Established: 1983

Common Name: Middle St. Vrain Willow Carr

Critical Wildlife Habitat Criteria:

Vital SSC Habitat: X

Wildlife Concentration:

Unique Biodiversity: X

Location (General): Located at the intersection of SH7 and CR 92. Roughly bounded by USFS Camp Dick and Peaceful Valley.

Designation Description: Willow carrs are important avian habitats comprising about 1% of the mountain landscape in Boulder County, having 2-3 times the breeding bird density as compared to adjacent habitats and supporting several avian and mammal species which are restricted to this habitat type. This site provides quality habitat for the American Beaver and its associated species. This area is within the county River Otter concentration area.

Key Species:

SSC Known Occurrence: Avian and Small Mammal biodiversity; American Beaver (*Castor canadensis*); River Otter (*Lontra canadensis*) core habitat

SSC Potential Occurrence (within habitat area):

Threats to Species or Habitat: Willow carrs are rare and sensitive habitats which are vulnerable to activities such as development, domestic animal grazing, and recreational activities such as OHV use, campgrounds or hiking trails placed inside the habitat, as well as construction of reservoirs, peat extraction and road construction. American Beaver are vulnerable to trapping for sport or direct removal of dams or individuals. Avian and small mammal biodiversity is sensitive to fragmentation, loss of structural diversity or reduced habitat productivity. River Otter are sensitive to streamside and riparian habitat modification, water quality degradation leading to loss of prey, and direct trapping.

Habitat Descriptions:

Habitat (General): Willow carr vegetation dominated by willow shrubs, alder, birch, sedges and grasses. Middle St. Vrain Creek flows through the site with associated beaver ponds.

Southwest Regional Gap Analysis Project Landcover Types: Rocky Mountain Lodgepole Pine Forest, Rocky Mountain Ponderosa Pine Woodland, Rocky Mountain Montane Mesic Mixed Conifer Forest and Woodland, Rocky Mountain Subalpine-Montane Riparian Shrubland, Rocky Mountain Aspen Forest and Woodland, Inter-Mountain Basins Montane Sagebrush Steppe, Rocky Mountain Montane Dry-Mesic Mixed Conifer Forest and Woodland, Rocky Mountain Subalpine-Montane Riparian Woodland, Southern Rocky Mountain Montane-Subalpine Grassland.

Size: 236 acres

Elevation: 8513-9120 feet (Mean = 8717 feet)

Life Zone: Subalpine

Ownership: (Private: X Public: X)

Comments: USFS and private property. Note Camp Dick and Peaceful Valley campgrounds on site.

Current Resource Protection and Management Designations:

See the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests Land and Resource Management Plan.

Information Sources and References: Contact Boulder County Parks and Open Space Resource Management staff for a list of information sources and references compiled to create this Critical Wildlife Habitat description.

Critical Wildlife Habitat #11

Year Revised: 2013

Year Established: 1983

Common Name: Tumblesom Lake

Critical Wildlife Habitat Criteria:

Vital SSC Habitat: X

Wildlife Concentration:

Unique Biodiversity:

Location (General): Located at the intersection of SH7 and CR96J. Much of the area is owned and used by the Boy Scouts of America.

Designation Description: Includes the lake and willow carr habitats. The lake supports a recently re-discovered species of native fish in Colorado. Willow carrs are important avian habitats comprising about 1% of the mountain landscape in Boulder County, having 2-3 times the breeding bird density as compared to adjacent habitats and supporting several avian and mammal species which are restricted to this habitat type. This site supports an active American Beaver colony and associated species.

Key Species:

SSC Known Occurrence: Lake Chub (*Couesius plumbeus*); River Otter (*Lontra canadensis*) core habitat; American Beaver (*Castor canadensis*); Avian and Small Mammal biodiversity

SSC Potential Occurrence (within habitat area):

Threats to Species or Habitat: Lake Chub are sensitive to direct mortality or loss of breeding habitat by dewatering or dredging of rocky shore and shoal habitat along lake margins, or blockage of open tributary streams used for breeding in early spring; introduction of invasive or exotic species such as crayfish which may consume eggs or fry; excessive stocking of predatory game fish which may deplete the adult population; contamination of water with organic waste which leads to reduced oxygen or water quality. Willow carrs are rare and sensitive habitats which are vulnerable to activities such as development, domestic animal grazing, and recreational activities such as OHV use, campgrounds or hiking trails placed inside the habitat, as well as construction of reservoirs, peat extraction and road construction. American Beaver are vulnerable to trapping for sport or direct removal of dams or individuals. Avian and small mammal biodiversity is sensitive to fragmentation, loss of structural diversity or reduced habitat productivity. River Otter are sensitive to streamside and riparian habitat modification, water quality degradation leading to loss of prey, and direct trapping. This area is dominated in summer by a regional Boy Scout camp, and contains the beginning of the South St. Vrain Trail (909).

Habitat Descriptions:

Habitat (General): Willow carr adjacent to Tumblesom Lake. Vegetation is dominated by willow shrubs, alder, birch, sedges and grasses. Active beaver ponds.

Southwest Regional Gap Analysis Project Landcover Types: Rocky Mountain Lodgepole Pine Forest, Rocky Mountain Aspen Forest and Woodland, Rocky Mountain Ponderosa Pine Woodland, Rocky Mountain Subalpine-Montane Riparian Shrubland, Open Water, Inter-Mountain Basins Montane Sagebrush Steppe, Rocky Mountain Subalpine-Montane Riparian Woodland, Rocky Mountain Montane Mesic Mixed Conifer Forest and Woodland, Inter-Mountain West Aspen-Mixed Conifer Forest and Woodland Complex, Rocky Mountain Montane Dry-Mesic Mixed Conifer Forest and Woodland.

Size: 184 acres

Elevation: 8746-9006 feet (Mean = 8874 feet)

Life Zone: Montane

Ownership: (Private: X Public: X)

Comments: Boy Scouts of America, private property and USFS.

Current Resource Protection and Management Designations:

See the Rocky Mountain National Park management plan.

Information Sources and References: Contact Boulder County Parks and Open Space Resource Management staff for a list of information sources and references compiled to create this Critical Wildlife Habitat description.

Critical Wildlife Habitat #12

Year Revised: 2013

Year Established: 1983

Common Name: Marietta Canyon

Critical Wildlife Habitat Criteria:

Vital SSC Habitat: X

Wildlife Concentration: X

Unique Biodiversity:

Location (General): Two areas located north of Geer Canyon Drive in Heil Valley Ranch.

Designation Description: Includes rock cliffs and ledges serving as habitat for Golden Eagle and Prairie Falcon, small riparian areas, as well as prairie community types serving as rare butterfly habitat. Cougar production area.

Key Species:

SSC Known Occurrence: Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*); Rare Butterfly concentration; Hops Feeding Azure (*Clestinia humulus*); Dusted Skipper (*Atrytonopsis hianna*); Moss's Elfin (*Callophrys mossii*); Prairie Falcon (*Falco mexicanus*)

SSC Potential Occurrence (within habitat area): Hops Feeding Azure, American Badger, Big Brown Bat, Hoary Bat, Silver-haired Bat, Townsend's Big-eared Bat, Beaver, Indigo Bunting, Lazuli Bunting, Bushtit, Colorado Chipmunk, Uinta Chipmunk, Lake Darter, American Dipper, Hudsonian Emerald Dragonfly, Mottled Duskywing, Moss's Elfin, American Emerald, Peregrine Falcon, Northern Flicker, Willow Flycatcher, Gray Fox, Chorus Frog, Northern Pocket Gopher, White-tailed Jackrabbit, River Jewelwing, Belted Kingfisher, Northern Rock Mouse, Fringed Myotis, Little Brown Myotis, Western Small-footed Myotis, Long-eared Owl, Mexican Spotted Owl, Northern Pygmy Owl, Band-tailed Pigeon, North American Porcupine, American Redstart, Ringtail, Western Scrub-Jay, American Water Shrew, Dwarf Shrew, Merriam's Shrew, Snow's Skipper, Two-banded Checkered Skipper, Two-spotted Skipper, Milk Snake, Brewer's Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Sage Thrasher, Plumbeous Vireo, Heather Vole, Virginia's Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, Cedar Waxwing, Rock Wren.

Threats to Species or Habitat: Golden Eagle are vulnerable to human encroachment near their nests sites during the breeding season, such as from climbing; disturbances can result in nest abandonment and negatively impact recruitment rates and population trends. Hops Feeding Azure, Dusted Skipper and Moss's Elfin are negatively affected by the reduction of prairie habitat size and fragmentation, weed encroachment into host plant habitats, diversion or modification of water courses and associated host plant communities, and the potentially disruptive effects of some methods of prescribed fire. Prairie Falcon are vulnerable to human encroachment near their nests sites during the breeding season, such as from climbing; disturbances can result in nest abandonment and negatively impact recruitment rates and population trends.

Habitat Descriptions:

Habitat (General): Rock cliffs and ledges; grasslands.

Southwest Regional Gap Analysis Project Landcover Types: Rocky Mountain Ponderosa Pine Woodland, Rocky Mountain Montane Mesic Mixed Conifer Forest and Woodland, Agriculture, Western Great Plains Foothill and Piedmont Grassland, Rocky Mountain Montane Dry-Mesic Mixed Conifer Forest and Woodland, Rocky Mountain Lower Montane-Foothill Shrubland.

Size: 251 acres

Elevation: 6101-7047 feet (Mean = 6587 feet)

Life Zone: Montane

Ownership: (Private: Public: X)

Comments: BCPOS Open Space

Current Resource Protection and Management Designations:

See relevant BCPOS management plans.

Information Sources and References: Contact Boulder County Parks and Open Space Resource Management staff for a list of information sources and references compiled to create this Critical Wildlife Habitat description.

Critical Wildlife Habitat #13

Year Revised: 2013

Year Established: 1983

Common Name: Lefthand Palisades

Critical Wildlife Habitat Criteria:

Vital SSC Habitat: X

Wildlife Concentration:

Unique Biodiversity:

Location (General): Located at the intersection of Lefthand Canyon Drive and Olde Stage Road.

Designation Description: Lefthand Palisades provides high-quality nesting habitat for a pair of Golden Eagles. This site was first described by Gale in the 1880s, and has been monitored for over 30 years by BCNA volunteers and OSMP staff. The CWH boundaries generally follow OSMP seasonal wildlife closure boundaries.

Key Species:

SSC Known Occurrence: Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*)

SSC Potential Occurrence (within habitat area): Hops Feeding Azure, American Badger, Big Brown Bat, Hoary Bat, Silver-haired Bat, Townsend's Big-eared Bat, Beaver, Lazuli Bunting, Bushtit, American Dipper, Hudsonian Emerald Dragonfly, Mottled Duskywing, Moss's Elfin, American Emerald, Peregrine Falcon, Prairie Falcon, Northern Flicker, Gray Fox, Chorus Frog, Northern Pocket Gopher, White-tailed Jackrabbit, River Jewelwing, Belted Kingfisher, Northern Rock Mouse, Fringed Myotis, Little Brown Myotis, Western Small-footed Myotis, River Otter, Long-eared Owl, Mexican Spotted Owl, Northern Pygmy Owl, Band-tailed Pigeon, North American Porcupine, Ringtail, Western Scrub-Jay, American Water Shrew, Dwarf Shrew, Merriam's Shrew, Snow's Skipper, Two-banded Checkered Skipper, Two-spotted Skipper, Milk Snake, Brewer's Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Sage Thrasher, Plumbeous Vireo, Heather Vole, Virginia's Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, Rock Wren.

Threats to Species or Habitat: Golden Eagle are vulnerable to human encroachment near their nests sites during the breeding season, such as from climbing; disturbances can result in nest abandonment and negatively impact recruitment rates and population trends.

Habitat Descriptions:

Habitat (General): West facing sandstone ledge on cliffs.

Southwest Regional Gap Analysis Project Landcover Types: Rocky Mountain Ponderosa Pine Woodland, Rocky Mountain Lower Montane-Foothill Shrubland, Western Great Plains Foothill and Piedmont Grassland, Rocky Mountain Montane Dry-Mesic Mixed Conifer Forest and Woodland, Invasive Perennial Grassland, Rocky Mountain Montane Mesic Mixed Conifer Forest and Woodland, Developed, Open Space - Low Intensity, Agriculture.

Size: 162 acres

Elevation: 5757-6328 feet (Mean = 6032 feet)

Life Zone: Plains

Ownership: (Private: X Public: X)

Comments: City of Boulder and private property.

Current Resource Protection and Management Designations:

See the relevant city of Boulder management plan. Raptor nesting sites are protected with seasonal closures (1 February – 31 July or until warranted).

Information Sources and References: Contact Boulder County Parks and Open Space Resource Management staff for a list of information sources and references compiled to create this Critical Wildlife Habitat description.

Critical Wildlife Habitat #14

Year Revised: 2013

Year Established: 1978

Common Name: Lefthand Creek Cottonwood Groves

Critical Wildlife Habitat Criteria:

Vital SSC Habitat:

Wildlife Concentration:

Unique Biodiversity: X

Location (General): Two areas located between N 45th St. on the west and the intersection of Airport Road and SH119 on the west.

Designation Description: Creek, associated riparian habitat and adjacent well-developed riparian gallery forest of cottonwoods, willows, and shrub. This habitat is important to conserve native fish species of special concern. Aquatic habitat is essential for conservation of native fish species of special concern. Cottonwood, willow and shrub habitat is important for many sensitive riparian species.

Key Species:

SSC Known Occurrence: Johnny Darter (*Etheostoma exile*); Plains Topminnow (*Fundulus sciadicus*); Avian and Small Mammal biodiversity; Red-headed Woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*)

SSC Potential Occurrence (within habitat area): American Avocet, Big Brown Bat, Brazilian Free-tailed Bat, Eastern Red Bat, Hoary Bat, Beaver, American Bittern, Least Bittern, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Colorado Blue, Indigo Bunting, Lark Bunting, Hornyhead Chub, Lake Darner, Iowa Darter, Wood Duck, Bald Eagle, Great Egret, Northern Flicker, Giant Floater, Chorus Frog, Northern Leopard Frog, Northern Pocket Gopher, Northern Harrier, Ferruginous Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, Black-crowned Night Heron, Great Blue Heron, Horned Lark, Short Horned Lizard, Brassy Minnow, Northern Mockingbird, River Otter, Long-eared Owl, Cylindrical Papershell, Banded Physa, American Redstart, Tiger Salamander, Bigmouth Shiner, Blacknose Shiner, Common Shiner, Least Shrew, Rhesus Skipper, Simius Roadside Skipper, Common Garter Snake, Stonecat, Spiny Softshell Turtle.

Threats to Species or Habitat: Plains Topminnow and Johnny Darter are native fishes sensitive to siltation, loss of streamside vegetation or backwater breeding habitat, low-flow conditions, reduced water quality or increased water temperature and competition from exotic species such as the western mosquitofish (*Gambusia affinis*). Red-Headed Woodpecker are vulnerable to lack of cavity nesting habitat, competition by non-natives (i.e. European Starlings) for available cavities, lack of open forest stands for aerial foraging and lack of fruit bearing shrubs in understory. Avian and small mammal biodiversity is sensitive to fragmentation, loss of structural diversity or reduced habitat productivity.

Habitat Descriptions:

Habitat (General): Lefthand Creek and adjacent riparian habitat of cottonwoods and willows and associated shrubs

Southwest Regional Gap Analysis Project Landcover Types: Agriculture, Western Great Plains Riparian Woodland and Shrubland, Western Great Plains Floodplain Herbaceous Wetland, Invasive Perennial Grassland, Developed, Open Space - Low Intensity.

Size: 433 acres

Elevation: 5022-5346 feet (Mean = 5135 feet)

Life Zone: Plains

Ownership: (Private: X Public: X)

Comments: Private property, Joint BCPOS and City of Boulder, BCPOS Open Space and CE.

Current Resource Protection and Management Designations:

See relevant BCPOS and city of Boulder management plans.

Information Sources and References: Contact Boulder County Parks and Open Space Resource Management staff for a list of information sources and references compiled to create this Critical Wildlife Habitat description.

Critical Wildlife Habitat #15

Year Revised: 2013

Year Established: 1983

Common Name: Lagerman Reservoir

Critical Wildlife Habitat Criteria:

Vital SSC Habitat: X

Wildlife Concentration:

Unique Biodiversity:

Location (General): Located at the intersection of Prospect Rd. and N 63rd St. Extends roughly from N 63rd St. to Lagerman Reservoir.

Designation Description: Reservoir, grassland, shoreline, wetland and creek habitats used by Burrowing Owl, Northern Harrier, Bald Eagle and other species of special concern for breeding and foraging.

Key Species:

SSC Known Occurrence: Burrowing Owl (*Athene cunicularia*); Northern Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*); Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*); American Bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*); Bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*); Black Tailed Prairie Dog (*Cynomys ludovicianus*); Short-eared owl (*Asio flammeus*); Horned Lark (*Eremophila alpestris*).

SSC Potential Occurrence (within habitat area): American Avocet, American Badger, Brazilian Free-tailed Bat, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Colorado Blue, Lark Bunting, Indigo Bunting, Lazuli Bunting, Hornyhead Chub, Double-crested Cormorant, Iowa Darter, Johnny Darter, Wood Duck, Mottled Duskywing, Great Egret, Prairie Falcon, Giant Floater, Regal Fritillary, Chorus Frog, Northern Leopard Frog, Northern Pocket Gopher, Ferruginous Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, Great Blue Heron, White-tailed Jackrabbit, Short Horned Lizard, Brassy Minnow, Northern Mockingbird, Northern Grasshopper Mouse, Olive-back Pocket Mouse, Plains Harvest Mouse, Plains Pocket Mouse, Silky Pocket Mouse, Little Brown Myotis, Short-eared Owl, Cylindrical Papershell, Banded Physa, Ord's Kangaroo Rat, Tiger Salamander, Bigmouth Shiner, Blacknose Shiner, Common Shiner, Least Shrew, Merriam's Shrew, Loggerhead Shrike, Arogos Skipper, Cross-line Skipper, Dusted Skipper, Ottoe Skipper, Rhesus Skipper, Simius Roadside Skipper, Common Garter Snake, Lined Snake, Milk Snake, Cassin's Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, Thirteen-lined Ground Squirrel, Stonecat, Plains Spadefoot Toad, Plain's Topminnow, Spiny Softshell Turtle, Meadow Vole

Threats to Species or Habitat: Northern Harrier is especially vulnerable due to nesting habitat declines in and around wetlands due to land conversion and recreational use; this is a candidate for the most imperiled avian species in Boulder County. Burrowing Owl nesting is sensitive to the loss of nesting sites due to prairie dog declines, disturbance due to urbanization or recreational use of nesting areas, and pesticide use to control pest species which are then consumed by the owls. Bobolink are affected by early cutting of hayfields during peak nesting periods and habitat loss due to land conversion (esp. meadows and prairies). Bald Eagle are vulnerable to nest site encroachment and destruction of nesting trees, contamination of prey from pesticides and loss of prey base due to large-scale pest control programs. American Bittern suffer from loss of marsh and wetland foraging and breeding habitats due to habitat conversion or recreational use. Black Tailed Prairie Dogs are vulnerable to direct population declines from large-scale pest control programs and outbreaks of sylvatic plague, as well as conversion of prairie habitat to agriculture, urban development or recreational uses. Short-eared Owl are vulnerable to the loss of open grassland habitat of sufficient size for successful nesting, either by conversion to agriculture, overgrazing, recreation and development. Horned Lark are a ground nesting species vulnerable to the conversion of shortgrass prairie to agriculture or development. This site contains active agricultural areas, livestock grazing, and a heavy recreational presence of trails, trailhead, and boating at Lagerman Reservoir open space, as well as busy Oxford Road.

Habitat Descriptions:

Habitat (General): Lagerman Reservoir and wetlands, wet meadow, salt meadows, creek and grassland.

Southwest Regional Gap Analysis Project Landcover Types: Agriculture, Open Water, Invasive Perennial Grassland, Western Great Plains Shortgrass Prairie

Western Great Plains Floodplain Herbaceous Wetland, Developed, Medium - High Intensity, Western Great Plains Riparian Woodland and Shrubland, Western Great Plains Foothill and Piedmont Grassland, Developed, Open Space - Low Intensity

Size: 494 acres

Elevation: 5084-5174 feet (Mean = 5123 feet)

Life Zone: Plains

Ownership: (Private: ☒ Public: ☒)

Comments: BCPOS Open Space and CE and private property.

Current Resource Protection and Management Designations:

See relevant BCPOS management plans.

Information Sources and References: Contact Boulder County Parks and Open Space Resource Management staff for a list of information sources and references compiled to create this Critical Wildlife Habitat description.

Critical Wildlife Habitat #16

Year Revised: 2013

Year Established: 1983

Common Name: Gaynor Lakes

Critical Wildlife Habitat Criteria:

Vital SSC Habitat: X

Wildlife Concentration:

Unique Biodiversity: X

Location (General): Two areas located at the intersection of Oxford Rd. and N 95th St. in the Hillcrest Heights subdivision.

Designation Description: Lake, shore, marsh and wetland supporting a high diversity and density of avian species, including migrating waterfowl. Grassland habitat used as Burrowing Owl nesting habitat. One of only two natural playas in Boulder County (the other is Sombrero Marsh - CWH37).

Key Species:

SSC Known Occurrence: Burrowing Owl (*Athene cunicularia*); Black Tailed Prairie Dog (*Cynomys ludovicianus*); American Bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*); Avian biodiversity

SSC Potential Occurrence (within habitat area): American Avocet, American Badger, Brazilian Free-tailed Bat, Eastern Red Bat, American Bittern, Least Bittern, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Colorado Blue, Bobolink, Lark Bunting, Double-crested Cormorant, Iowa Darter, Johnny Darter, Wood Duck, Mottled Duskywing, Bald Eagle, Great Egret, Prairie Falcon, Giant Floater, Regal Fritillary, Chorus Frog, Northern Leopard Frog, Northern Pocket Gopher, Eastern Grebe, Northern Harrier, Ferruginous Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, Black-crowned Night Heron, Great Blue Heron, Horned Lark, Short Horned Lizard, Brassy Minnow, Northern Mockingbird, Northern Grasshopper Mouse, Olive-back Pocket Mouse, Plains Harvest Mouse, Plains Pocket Mouse, Silky Pocket Mouse, Fringed Myotis, River Otter, Short-eared Owl, Cylindrical Papershell, Banded Physa, Mountain Plover, Ord's Kangaroo Rat, Tiger Salamander, Least Shrew, Merriam's Shrew, Loggerhead Shrike, Arogos Skipper, Cross-line Skipper, Dusted Skipper, Ottoe Skipper, Rhesus Skipper, Simius Roadside Skipper, Common Garter Snake, Lined Snake, Milk Snake, Cassin's Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, Spotted Ground Squirrel, Thirteen-lined Ground Squirrel, Stonecat, Plains Spadefoot Toad, Plain's Topminnow, Meadow Vole

Threats to Species or Habitat: Burrowing Owl nesting is sensitive to the loss of nesting sites due to prairie dog declines, disturbance due to urbanization or recreational use of nesting areas, and pesticide use to control pest species which are then consumed by the owls. Black Tailed Prairie Dogs are vulnerable to direct population declines from large-scale pest control programs and outbreaks of sylvatic plague, as well as conversion of prairie habitat to agriculture, urban development or recreational uses. American Avocet are sensitive to loss of habitat created by vernal flooding regimes as a result of agricultural water diversions of in-stream flows and urban flood control projects. Avian biodiversity is sensitive to fragmentation, loss of structural diversity or reduced habitat productivity.

Habitat Descriptions:

Habitat (General): Little Gaynor Lake is one of two naturally occurring playas in Boulder County (shallow with no outflow and fed primarily by drainage and groundwater); Includes wetland vegetation around perimeter. Second wetland 1/2 mile west of Little Gaynor Lake. Grasslands near lake.

Southwest Regional Gap Analysis Project Landcover Types: Open Water, Agriculture, Western Great Plains Floodplain Herbaceous Wetland, Western Great Plains Riparian Woodland and Shrubland, Developed, Open Space - Low Intensity.

Size: 70 acres

Elevation: 5015-5056 feet (Mean = 5023 feet)

Life Zone: Plains

Ownership: (Private: X Public: X)

Comments: BCPOS Open Space and CE and private property.

Current Resource Protection and Management Designations:

See relevant BCPOS management plans.

Information Sources and References: Contact Boulder County Parks and Open Space Resource Management staff for a list of information sources and references compiled to create this Critical Wildlife Habitat description.

Critical Wildlife Habitat #17

Year Revised: 2013

Year Established: 1978

Common Name: Panama Reservoir

Critical Wildlife Habitat Criteria:

Vital SSC Habitat: X

Wildlife Concentration: X

Unique Biodiversity:

Location (General): Located near the intersection of Mineral Rd. and N 115th St. Includes reservoir and wooded corridor east of the reservoir.

Designation Description: Lake, riparian and associated cottonwood trees serving as habitat for Bald Eagle and Great Blue Heron nesting and foraging. Area supports the highest nesting concentration of Double-crested Cormorant in Boulder County, and a colony of Black Crowned Night Heron. American Pelican concentration area.

Key Species:

SSC Known Occurrence: Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*); Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*); Double-crested Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus*); Great Egret (*Ardea alba*); Black Crowned Night Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*)

SSC Potential Occurrence (within habitat area): American Avocet, American Badger, Brazilian Free-tailed Bat, Eastern Red Bat, Beaver, American Bittern, Least Bittern, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Colorado Blue, Lark Bunting, Hornyhead Chub, Iowa Darter, Johnny Darter, Wood Duck, Mottled Duskywing, Prairie Falcon, Giant Floater, Regal Fritillary, Chorus Frog, Northern Leopard Frog, Northern Pocket Gopher, Eastern Grebe, Northern Harrier, Ferruginous Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, Belted Kingfisher, Horned Lark, Brassy Minnow, Northern Mockingbird, Olive-back Pocket Mouse, Fringed Myotis, River Otter, Burrowing Owl, Short-eared Owl, Cylindrical Papershell, Banded Physa, Tiger Salamander, Bigmouth Shiner, Common Shiner, Least Shrew, Merriam's Shrew, Loggerhead Shrike, Arogos Skipper, Cross-line Skipper, Dusted Skipper, Ottoe Skipper, Rhesus Skipper, Simius Roadside Skipper, Common Garter Snake, Lined Snake, Milk Snake, Spotted Ground Squirrel, Thirteen-lined Ground Squirrel, Stonecat, Great Plains Toad, Plains Spadefoot Toad, Plain's Topminnow, Spiny Softshell Turtle, Meadow Vole

Threats to Species or Habitat: Bald Eagle are vulnerable to nest site encroachment and destruction of nesting trees, contamination of prey from pesticides and loss of prey base due to large-scale pest control programs. Great Blue Heron are sensitive to the loss of nest site trees or human site encroachment, and survival of adults and young depend on prey from nearby high quality aquatic habitats producing fish and amphibians. Black-crowned Night Herons are vulnerable to human disturbance at nesting colonies which tend to be grouped in restricted areas, and as top predators they are sensitive to the accumulation of toxins in their habitat which can be found in their prey. Double-crested Cormorant are vulnerable to loss of nesting habitat adjacent to aquatic habitat, and due to colonial breeding concentrations, are susceptible in high numbers to human encroachment. This area contains active agriculture, residences, and is subject to oil and gas maintenance and development.

Habitat Descriptions:

Habitat (General): Reservoir with surrounding riparian habitat of cottonwood trees, willow trees and shrubs.

Southwest Regional Gap Analysis Project Landcover Types: Open Water, Agriculture, Western Great Plains Floodplain Herbaceous Wetland, Western Great Plains Riparian Woodland and Shrubland.

Size: 462 acres

Elevation: 4999-5058 feet (Mean = 5043 feet)

Life Zone: Plains

Ownership: (Private: X Public: X)

Comments: Private property and BCPOS Open Space and CE.

Current Resource Protection and Management Designations:

See relevant BCPOS management plans.

Information Sources and References: Contact Boulder County Parks and Open Space Resource Management staff for a list of information sources and references compiled to create this Critical Wildlife Habitat description.

Critical Wildlife Habitat #19

Year Revised: 2013

Year Established: 1983

Common Name: City of Boulder Watershed

Critical Wildlife Habitat Criteria:

Vital SSC Habitat: X

Wildlife Concentration:

Unique Biodiversity:

Location (General): Located NW of the Rainbow Lakes Campground at the terminus of CR116. Includes set of connected lakes within the closed-to-public City of Boulder Watershed.

Designation Description: High-quality aquatic habitat with functional riparian habitat, protected habitat encompassing sub-alpine lakes, streams, wetlands, riparian areas and associated forest. The watershed supports Greenback Cutthroat Trout and potentially supports other rare aquatic species of concern. American Wolverine have been observed in this area.

Key Species:

SSC Known Occurrence: Greenback Cutthroat Trout (*Oncorhynchus clarki*)

SSC Potential Occurrence (within habitat area): Chorus Frog, Tiger Salamander, Boreal Toad, American Dipper, Belted Kingfisher, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Boreal Owl, Williamson's Sapsucker, Veery, Wilson's Warbler, American Three-toed woodpecker, Rocky Mountain Arctic Jutta, Beaver, Canada Lynx, American Marten, Long-eared Myotis, American Water Shrew, Pika, White-tailed Ptarmigan, Townsend's Big-eared Bat.

Threats to Species or Habitat: Greenback Cutthroat Trout are vulnerable to hybridization with and predation by other native and non-native salmonids; degradation of stream habitat quality by logging, livestock over-grazing, water diversions, organic and inorganic water pollution and high-intensity recreational use of streams. Due to recent evidence of hybridization with other salmonids, this species of trout is currently under review by the US Fish and Wildlife Service for re-assessment of its listing as a Threatened species under the Endangered Species Act. This area contains active agriculture, residences, and is subject to oil and gas maintenance and development.

Habitat Descriptions:

Habitat (General): Alpine lakes, reservoirs, streams, riparian areas and associated forest.

Southwest Regional Gap Analysis Project Landcover Types: Rocky Mountain Subalpine Dry-Mesic Spruce-Fir Forest and Woodland, Open Water, Rocky Mountain Subalpine Mesic Spruce-Fir Forest and Woodland, Rocky Mountain Cliff and Canyon, Rocky Mountain Lodgepole Pine Forest, Rocky Mountain Subalpine-Montane Riparian Shrubland, Developed, Medium - High Intensity, Rocky Mountain Alpine Bedrock and Scree, Rocky Mountain Aspen Forest and Woodland.

Size: 525 acres

Elevation: 10206-10860 feet (Mean = 10380 feet)

Life Zone: Subalpine

Ownership: (Private: Public: X)

Comments: City of Boulder.

Current Resource Protection and Management Designations:

See relevant city of Boulder management plans.

Information Sources and References: Contact Boulder County Parks and Open Space Resource Management staff for a list of information sources and references compiled to create this Critical Wildlife Habitat description.

Critical Wildlife Habitat #20

Year Revised: 2013

Year Established: 1983

Common Name: Como Creek

Critical Wildlife Habitat Criteria:

Vital SSC Habitat: X

Wildlife Concentration:

Unique Biodiversity:

Location (General): Located west of the intersection of SH72 and Rainbow Lake Rd.

Designation Description: Isolated reach of sub-alpine stream uniquely supporting one of two originally-considered pure-strain Greenback Cutthroat Trout populations. The habitat configuration has the potential to influence future conservation efforts.

Key Species:

SSC Known Occurrence: Greenback Cutthroat Trout (*Oncorhynchus clarki*)

SSC Potential Occurrence (within habitat area): Chorus Frog, Tiger Salamander, Boreal Toad, American Dipper, Northern Goshawk, Belted Kingfisher, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Boreal Owl, Williamson's Sapsucker, Veery, Wilson's Warbler, American Three-toed woodpecker, Rocky Mountain Arctic Jutta, Beaver, Canada Lynx, American Marten, Long-eared Myotis, American Water Shrew, Common Garter Snake.

Threats to Species or Habitat: Greenback Cutthroat Trout are vulnerable to hybridization with and predation by other native and non-native salmonids; degradation of stream habitat quality by logging, livestock over-grazing, water diversions, organic and inorganic water pollution and high-intensity recreational use of streams. Due to recent evidence of hybridization with other salmonids, this species of trout is currently under review by the US Fish and Wildlife Service for re-assessment of its listing as a Threatened species under the Endangered Species Act. The University of Colorado Mountain Research Campus is adjacent to this stream within this area.

Habitat Descriptions:

Habitat (General): Subalpine stream and riparian habitat.

Southwest Regional Gap Analysis Project Landcover Types: Rocky Mountain Lodgepole Pine Forest, Rocky Mountain Subalpine Dry-Mesic Spruce-Fir Forest and Woodland, Rocky Mountain Aspen Forest and Woodland, Rocky Mountain Subalpine Mesic Spruce-Fir Forest and Woodland, Rocky Mountain Subalpine-Montane Riparian Shrubland.

Size: 275 acres

Elevation: 9254-10559 feet (Mean = 9955 feet)

Life Zone: Montane

Ownership: (Private: X Public: X)

Comments: USFS and State of Colorado.

Current Resource Protection and Management Designations:

See the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests Land and Resource Management Plan.

Information Sources and References: Contact Boulder County Parks and Open Space Resource Management staff for a list of information sources and references compiled to create this Critical Wildlife Habitat description.

Critical Wildlife Habitat #21

Year Revised: 2013

Year Established: 1983

Common Name: Eagle Rock (Previously named Boulder Falls Area)

Critical Wildlife Habitat Criteria:

Vital SSC Habitat: ☒

Wildlife Concentration:

Unique Biodiversity:

Location (General): Located east of the intersection of North Boulder Creek with SH119.

Designation Description: Steep rock cliffs supporting long-documented nesting of Golden Eagle.

Key Species:

SSC Known Occurrence: Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*)

SSC Potential Occurrence (within habitat area): Big Brown Bat, Hoary Bat, Silver-haired Bat, Townsend's Big-eared Bat, Uinta Chipmunk, Hudsonian Emerald Dragonfly, Mottled Duskywing, American Emerald, Peregrine Falcon, Northern Flicker, Gray Fox, Chorus Frog, Northern Pocket Gopher, River Jewelwing, Northern Rock Mouse, Little Brown Myotis, Western Small-footed Myotis, Long-eared Owl, Northern Pygmy Owl, North American Porcupine, American Redstart, Western Scrub-Jay, Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep, Dwarf Shrew, Two-banded Checkered Skipper, Two-spotted Skipper, Milk Snake, Fox Sparrow, Heather Vole, Virginia's Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, Rock Wren

Threats to Species or Habitat: Golden Eagle are vulnerable to human encroachment near their nests sites during the breeding season, such as from climbing; disturbances can result in nest abandonment and negatively impact recruitment rates and population trends. This area is a busy climbing area in both summer and winter, affected by multiple potential nest sites.

Habitat Descriptions:

Habitat (General): Steep west and southwest facing rock cliffs.

Southwest Regional Gap Analysis Project Landcover Types: Rocky Mountain Ponderosa Pine Woodland, Rocky Mountain Montane Mesic Mixed Conifer Forest and Woodland, Rocky Mountain Lower Montane-Foothill Shrubland, Western Great Plains Foothill and Piedmont Grassland, Rocky Mountain Montane Dry-Mesic Mixed Conifer Forest and Woodland, Agriculture, Rocky Mountain Alpine-Montane Wet Meadow, Southern Rocky Mountain Montane-Subalpine Grassland.

Size: 299 acres

Elevation: 6386-7595 feet (Mean = 6910 feet)

Life Zone: Montane

Ownership: (Private: ☒ Public: ☒)

Comments: USFS and private property.

Current Resource Protection and Management Designations:

See the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests Land and Resource Management Plan.

Information Sources and References: Contact Boulder County Parks and Open Space Resource Management staff for a list of information sources and references compiled to create this Critical Wildlife Habitat description.

Critical Wildlife Habitat #23

Year Revised: 2013

Year Established: 1983

Common Name: Boulder Reservoir

Critical Wildlife Habitat Criteria:

Vital SSC Habitat: X

Wildlife Concentration:

Unique Biodiversity:

Location (General): Area mainly located on the western and northern perimeter of Boulder Reservoir.

Designation Description: Cattail marsh, emergent wetlands and associated grasslands support Burrowing Owl, Northern Harrier, Great Blue Heron and other species of special concern. Also includes Axelsson Mitigation Ponds which provide habitat for the Plains Top Minnow, a species under ESA review by the USFWS.

Key Species:

SSC Known Occurrence: Burrowing Owl (*Athene cunicularia*); Northern Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*); American Bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*); Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*); Black Tailed Prairie Dog (*Cynomys ludovicianus*)

SSC Potential Occurrence (within habitat area): American Avocet, American Badger, Brazilian Free-tailed Bat, Beaver, Least Bittern, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Colorado Blue, Bobolink, Lark Bunting, Double-crested Cormorant, Iowa Darter, Johnny Darter, Wood Duck, Mottled Duskywing, Bald Eagle, Great Egret, Prairie Falcon, Giant Floater, Regal Fritillary, Chorus Frog, Northern Leopard Frog, Northern Pocket Gopher, Plains Sharp-tailed Grouse, Ferruginous Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, Black-crowned Night Heron, Belted Kingfisher, Horned Lark, Short Horned Lizard, Brassy Minnow, Northern Mockingbird, Northern Grasshopper Mouse, Olive-back Pocket Mouse, Plains Harvest Mouse, Plains Pocket Mouse, Silky Pocket Mouse, Fringed Myotis, River Otter, Short-eared Owl, Cylindrical Papershell, Banded Physa, Mountain Plover, Ord's Kangaroo Rat, Tiger Salamander, Bigmouth Shiner, Common Shiner, Least Shrew, Merriam's Shrew, Loggerhead Shrike, Arogos Skipper, Cross-line Skipper, Dusted Skipper, Ottoe Skipper, Rhesus Skipper, Simius Roadside Skipper, Common Garter Snake, Lined Snake, Milk Snake, Cassin's Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, Spotted Ground Squirrel, Thirteen-lined Ground Squirrel, Stonecat, Plains Spadefoot Toad, Plain's Topminnow, Spiny Softshell Turtle, Meadow Vole

Threats to Species or Habitat: Northern Harrier is especially vulnerable due to nesting habitat declines in and around wetlands due to land conversion and recreational use; this is a candidate for the most imperiled avian species in Boulder County. Burrowing Owl nesting is sensitive to the loss of nesting sites due to prairie dog declines, disturbance due to urbanization or recreational use of nesting areas, and pesticide use to control pest species which are then consumed by the owls. American Bittern suffer from loss of marsh and wetland foraging and breeding habitats due to habitat conversion or recreational use. Great Blue Heron are sensitive to the loss of nest site trees or excessive site encroachment, and survival of adults and young depend on prey from nearby high quality aquatic habitats producing fish and amphibians. Black Tailed Prairie Dogs are vulnerable to direct population declines from large-scale pest control programs and outbreaks of sylvatic plague, as well as conversion of prairie habitat to agriculture, urban development or recreational uses. Plains Topminnow are sensitive to siltation, loss of streamside vegetation or backwater breeding habitat, low-flow conditions, reduced water quality or increased water temperature and competition from exotic species such as the western mosquitofish (*Gambusia affinis*). This area contains significant trail mileage and sustains heavy recreational use, including organized events and competitions. It also contains a designated model airplane aerodrome. It is bisected by rural 55th Street.

Habitat Descriptions:

Habitat (General): Cattail marshes, emergent wetlands and grasslands; Isolated ponds.

Southwest Regional Gap Analysis Project Landcover Types: Agriculture, Open Water, Invasive Perennial Grassland, Western Great Plains Floodplain Herbaceous Wetland, Western Great Plains Riparian Woodland and Shrubland, Western Great Plains Shortgrass Prairie, Developed, Medium - High Intensity, North American Arid West Emergent Marsh.

Size: 538 acres

Elevation: 5172-5238 feet (Mean = 5197 feet)

Life Zone: Plains

Ownership: (Private: ☒ Public: ☒)

Comments: City of Boulder and private property.

Current Resource Protection and Management Designations:

See relevant city of Boulder management plans. The Axelson Ponds are protected under a seasonal wildlife closure (for protection of nesting Osprey nearby) from March 15 to September 10.

Information Sources and References: Contact Boulder County Parks and Open Space Resource Management staff for a list of information sources and references compiled to create this Critical Wildlife Habitat description.

Critical Wildlife Habitat #25

Year Revised: 2013

Year Established: 1978

Common Name: Walden and Sawhill Ponds

Critical Wildlife Habitat Criteria:

Vital SSC Habitat: ☒

Wildlife Concentration:

Unique Biodiversity:

Location (General): Located NW of the intersection of N 75th St. and Valmont Rd.

Designation Description: Cottonwood gallery forest along Boulder Creek and adjacent mature cottonwood, willows, shrubs, and emergent wetlands associated with reclaimed gravel ponds supporting Great Blue Heron, Black Crowned Night Heron, Wood Duck and other species of special concern.

Key Species:

SSC Known Occurrence: Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*); Least Bittern (*Ixobrychus exilis*); Black-Crowned Night Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*); Wood Duck (*Aix sponsa*); American Avocet (*Recurvirostra americana*); Yellow-headed Black Bird (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*)

SSC Potential Occurrence (within habitat area): American Avocet, American Badger, Brazilian Free-tailed Bat, Eastern Red Bat, Beaver, American Bittern, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Colorado Blue, Hornyhead Chub, Double-crested Cormorant, Iowa Darter, Johnny Darter, Bald Eagle, Great Egret, Prairie Falcon, Regal Fritillary, Chorus Frog, Northern Leopard Frog, Northern Pocket Gopher, Eared Grebe, Northern Harrier, Belted Kingfisher, Brassy Minnow, Northern Mockingbird, River Otter, Cylindrical Papershell, Banded Physa, Tiger Salamander, Bigmouth Shiner, Blacknose Shiner, Common Shiner, Least Shrew, Merriam's Shrew, Loggerhead Shrike, Simius Roadside Skipper, Common Garter Snake, Stonecat, Plains Spadefoot Toad, Plain's Topminnow, Spiny Softshell Turtle, Meadow Vole.

Threats to Species or Habitat: Great Blue Heron are sensitive to the loss of nest site trees or excessive site encroachment, and survival of adults and young depend on prey from nearby high quality aquatic habitats producing fish and amphibians. Least Bittern are vulnerable to the development and loss of dense wetland breeding/feeding habitat and human encroachment. Black-crowned Night Herons are vulnerable to human disturbance at nesting colonies which tend to be grouped in restricted areas, and as top predators they are sensitive to the accumulation of toxins in their habitat which can be found in their prey. Wood Ducks are sensitive to the removal of trees with suitable nesting cavities situated near vegetated water sources, such as adjacent to American Beaver dams (often removed due to concerns over water conveyance). American Avocet are sensitive to loss of habitat created by vernal flooding regimes as a result of agricultural water diversions of in-stream flows and urban flood control projects. Yellow-headed Blackbird are vulnerable to loss of nesting and foraging habitat in emergent vegetation of wetlands and lakesides due to water management drawdowns and drought conditions.

Habitat Descriptions:

Habitat (General): Reclaimed gravel ponds mixed with wetlands of emergent and shrub vegetation with scattered cottonwood trees.

Southwest Regional Gap Analysis Project Landcover Types: Open Water, Western Great Plains Riparian Woodland and Shrubland,, Agriculture, Western Great Plains Floodplain Herbaceous Wetland, Developed, Medium - High Intensity, Invasive Perennial Grassland, Developed, Open Space - Low Intensity.

Size: 365 acres

Elevation: 5117-5150 feet (Mean = 5129 feet)

Life Zone: Plains

Ownership: (Private: ☒ Public: ☒)

Comments: State of Colorado, City of Boulder, BCPOS Open Space and private property.

Current Resource Protection and Management Designations:

See relevant BCPOS and city of Boulder management plans.

Information Sources and References: Contact Boulder County Parks and Open Space Resource Management staff for a list of information sources and references compiled to create this Critical Wildlife Habitat description.

Critical Wildlife Habitat #26

Year Revised: 2013

Year Established: 1978

Common Name: White Rocks

Critical Wildlife Habitat Criteria:

Vital SSC Habitat: X

Wildlife Concentration:

Unique Biodiversity:

Location (General): Located between N 75th St. and N 95th St., north side of Boulder Creek.

Designation Description: This site is part of the White Rocks Natural Area. Rare geologic formation (Fox Hills Sandstone) which is particularly important to conserve several species of special concern, in particular Ants and Bees.

Key Species:

SSC Known Occurrence: Prairie Falcon (*Falco mexicanus*); Ants (*Aphaenogaster huachucanum*, *Formica laevis*, *Stigmatomma pallipes*, *Pheidole elecebra*); a Miner Bee (*Macrotera opuntiae*)

SSC Potential Occurrence (within habitat area): Hops Feeding Azure, American Badger, Miner (*Perdita opuntiae*) Bee, Colorado Chipmunk, Uinta Chipmunk, Mottled Duskywing, Moss's Elf, Gray Fox, Regal Fritillary, Northern Pocket Gopher, Northern Harrier, Ferruginous Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, White-tailed Jackrabbit, Horned Lark, Short Horned Lizard, Northern Grasshopper Mouse, Northern Rock Mouse, Olive-backed Pocket Mouse, Plains Harvest Mouse, Plains Pocket Mouse, Silky Pocket Mouse, Burrowing Owl, Short-eared Owl, Band-tailed Pigeon, Mountain Plover, North American Porcupine, Black-tailed Prairie Dog, Ord's Kangaroo Rat, Prairie Rattlesnake, American Redstart, Western Scrub-Jay, Loggerhead Shrike, Arogos Skipper, Cross-line Skipper, Dusted Skipper, Otter Skipper, Rhesus Skipper, Simius Roadside Skipper, Common Garter Snake, Lined Snake, Milk Snake, Brewer's Sparrow, Cassin's Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, Spotted Ground Squirrel, Thirteen-lined Ground Squirrel, Stonecat, Sage Thrasher, Plains Spadefoot Toad, Veery, Plumbeous Vireo, Heather Vole, Meadow Vole, Virginia's Warbler, Cedar Waxwing, Rock Wren

Threats to Species or Habitat: The ant species of special concern, such as *P. elecebra*, have complicated life histories and depend on multiple host plants and invertebrates; the application of pesticides or other actions which reduce regional invertebrate biodiversity are a direct threat to this group. Native pollinators, such as *M. opuntiae*, are highly susceptible to pesticides and common agricultural practices such as those used to reduce weed growth or plant crops or destruction of White Rock habitat. Prairie Falcon forage in this area on prey such as small mammals, and are vulnerable to human encroachment or development of this habitat.

Habitat Descriptions:

Habitat (General): Outcropping of Fox Hills Sandstone geologic formation (a.k.a. turtleback sandstone formation), surrounded by shortgrass prairie habitat and adjacent to Boulder Creek riparian corridor.

Southwest Regional Gap Analysis Project Landcover Types: Invasive Perennial Grassland, Western Great Plains Shortgrass Prairie, Western Great Plains Foothill and Piedmont Grassland, Western Great Plains Sandhill Shrubland, Agriculture, Western Great Plains Riparian Woodland and Shrubland.

Size: 64 acres

Elevation: 5087-5240 feet (Mean = 5171 feet)

Life Zone: Plains

Ownership: (Private: X Public: X)

Comments: City of Boulder and BCPOS CE.

Current Resource Protection and Management Designations:

See relevant BCPOS and city of Boulder management plans. The Western Portion of the area is designated as a Habitat Conservation Area by the City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks Department. The western area is closed to all public access from November 1- July 31 each year to protect nesting bald eagles. During the period from August 1- October 31, public access is

provided through staff led, guided hikes. The Eastern Portion of the area is currently managed privately, but following Oct 31, 2013, the area will also be designated as a Habitat Conservation area and likely managed in a manner consistent with the western portion.

Information Sources and References: Contact Boulder County Parks and Open Space Resource Management staff for a list of information sources and references compiled to create this Critical Wildlife Habitat description.

Critical Wildlife Habitat #27

Year Revised: 2013

Year Established: 1978

Common Name: Lower Boulder Creek Riparian Area

Critical Wildlife Habitat Criteria:

Vital SSC Habitat: X

Wildlife Concentration: X

Unique Biodiversity:

Location (General): Located between N 75th St. and US287, including creek and riparian lands around Boulder Creek.

Designation Description: Riparian area with cottonwoods along Boulder Creek that provides nesting habitat for many avian species, including Bald Eagle nesting and foraging areas, and Great Blue Heron nesting east of 95th Street. This is only the second known heronry in the county, containing at least 200 nests historically (25 currently), and has been active for over 60 years. Historical Great Egret nesting. Breeding habitat for Northern Leopard Frog and confirmed presence of River Otter.

Key Species:

SSC Known Occurrence: Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*); Great Egret (*Ardea alba*); Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*); Northern Leopard Frog (*Rana pipiens*); River Otter (*Lontra canadensis*); Tiger Salamander (*Ambystoma tigrinum*); Northern Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*); Common Garter Snake (*Thamnophis sirtalis*); Yellow-headed Blackbird (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*); Black Tailed Prairie Dog (*Cynomys ludovicianus*).

SSC Potential Occurrence (within habitat area): American Avocet, Hops Feeding Azure, American Badger, Brazilian Free-tailed Bat, Eastern Red Bat, American Beaver, American Bittern, Least Bittern, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Colorado Blue, Bobolink, Indigo Bunting, Lark Bunting, Lazuli Bunting, Colorado Chipmunk, Hornyhead Chub, Double-crested Cormorant, Long-billed Curlew, Blue-ringed Dancer, Iowa Darter, Johnny Darter, American Dipper, Wood Duck, Ring-neck Duck, Bald Eagle, Prairie Falcon, Northern Flicker, Willow Flycatcher, Gray Fox, Regal Fritillary, Chorus Frog, Northern Leopard Frog, Northern Pocket Gopher, Rough-legged Hawk, Belted Kingfisher, Brassy Minnow, Northern Mockingbird, Little Brown Myotis, Western Small-footed Myotis, River Otter, Long-eared Owl, Cylindrical Papershell, Banded Physa, North American Porcupine, American Redstart, Western Scrub-Jay, Bigmouth Shiner, Blacknose Shiner, Common Shiner, Dwarf Shrew, Least Shrew, Rhesus Skipper, Simius Roadside Skipper, Lined Snake, Milk Snake, Stonecat, Plain's Topminnow, Spiny Softshell Turtle, Heather Vole, Meadow Vole, Cedar Waxwing, Red-headed Woodpecker

Threats to Species or Habitat: Great Blue Heron are sensitive to the loss of nest site trees or excessive site encroachment, and survival of adults and young depend on prey from nearby high quality aquatic habitats producing fish and amphibians. Great Egret are sensitive to the loss of nest site trees, invasion of non-native tree cover or excessive site encroachment, and survival of adults and young depend on prey from nearby high quality aquatic habitats producing fish and amphibians. Bald Eagle are vulnerable to nest site encroachment and destruction of nesting trees, contamination of prey from pesticides and loss of prey base due to large-scale pest control programs. Northern Leopard Frog are vulnerable to destruction of wetland habitats, the invasion of bullfrogs due to habitat disturbance and subsequent predation or mortality from disease. River Otter are vulnerable to reduction of water quality reducing prey availability, disturbance of vacated Beaver bank dens used as breeding sites, and excessive trapping. Tiger Salamander are vulnerable to stocking or invasion of fish into previously fishless waterbodies; modification or destruction of wetland, seasonal or semipermanent aquatic habitats; conversion of terrestrial uplands adjacent to wetlands, which serve as burrowing substrate for juveniles, into urban development or agriculture production; endocrine and developmental disruption due to agricultural pesticides. Northern Harrier are a ground-nesting species vulnerable to loss of abundant, dense Vegetation used for nesting cover, especially in wetlands; urbanization which increases predation of nesting sites by domesticated and urban-adapted wildlife; habitat loss, which reduces native small mammals used as prey, caused by such land uses as large-scale agriculture and expanding urbanization. Common Garter Snake are sensitive to fragmentation or loss of wetland, riparian or lakeside habitats and reduction of vegetative cover; urbanization and recreational activities can exert direct mortality from vehicle strikes or predation by domestic animals; reduction of water quality in habitat lowers Availability of prey and reduces survivorship. Yellow-headed Blackbird are vulnerable to the loss of dense, emergent vegetation habitat, especially cattail marshes and wetlands; require open-

water nesting sites with specific water depths (1-2.5') which can be disrupted by such affects as drought or water managment practices. Black Tailed Prairie Dogs are vulnerable to direct population declines from large-scale pest control programs and outbreaks of sylvatic plague, as well as conversion of prairie habitat to agriculture, urban development or recreational uses.

Habitat Descriptions:

Habitat (General): Creek and adjacent riparian area with cottonwoods; grasslands.

Southwest Regional Gap Analysis Project Landcover Types: Agriculture, Western Great Plains Riparian Woodland and Shrubland, Western Great Plains Floodplain Herbaceous Wetland, Open Water, Developed, Open Space - Low Intensity, Western Great Plains Shortgrass Prairie, Western Great Plains Foothill and Piedmont Grassland, Invasive Southwest Riparian Woodland and Shrubland, Western Great Plains Sandhill Shrubland, Invasive Perennial Grassland.

Size: 1175 acres

Elevation: 5011-5124 feet (Mean = 5073 feet)

Life Zone: Plains

Ownership: (Private: ☒ Public: ☒)

Comments: City of Boulder, BCPOS CE and private property.

Current Resource Protection and Management Designations:

See relevant BCPOS and city of Boulder management plans. The Western Portion of the area is designated as a Habitat Conservation Area by the City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks Department. The western area is closed to all public access from November 1- July 31 each year to protect nesting bald eagles. During the period from August 1- October 31, public access is provided through staff led, guided hikes. The Eastern Portion of the area is currently managed privately, but following Oct 31, 2013, the area will also be designated as a Habitat Conservation area and likely managed in a manner consistent with the western portion. The private property east of 95th Street is managed as a working cattle operation. Public access is not permitted.

Information Sources and References: Contact Boulder County Parks and Open Space Resource Management staff for a list of information sources and references compiled to create this Critical Wildlife Habitat description.

Critical Wildlife Habitat #28

Year Revised: 2013

Year Established: 1983

Common Name: Diamond Lake Outlet

Critical Wildlife Habitat Criteria:

Vital SSC Habitat: X

Wildlife Concentration:

Unique Biodiversity:

Location (General): Located west of the terminus of Fourth of July Road, downstream of Diamond Lake.

Designation Description: Rare high-elevation waterfall area having suitable water quality and unique habitat configuration necessary for Black Swift nesting.

Key Species:

SSC Known Occurrence: Black Swift (*Cypseloides niger*)

SSC Potential Occurrence (within habitat area):

Threats to Species or Habitat: Black Swift are vulnerable to water management, forestry practices or recreational activities which reduce water quality and the production of aquatic insect prey needed for successful nesting.

Habitat Descriptions:

Habitat (General): High-elevation waterfall and adjacent granite rock ledges.

Southwest Regional Gap Analysis Project Landcover Types: Rocky Mountain Subalpine Mesic Spruce-Fir Forest and Woodland, Rocky Mountain Subalpine-Montane Riparian Shrubland, Rocky Mountain Subalpine Dry-Mesic Spruce-Fir Forest and Woodland.

Size: 13 acres

Elevation: 10235-10890 feet (Mean = 10557 feet)

Life Zone: Subalpine

Ownership: (Private: X Public: X)

Comments: USFS and private property.

Current Resource Protection and Management Designations:

See the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests Land and Resource Management Plan.

Information Sources and References: Contact Boulder County Parks and Open Space Resource Management staff for a list of information sources and references compiled to create this Critical Wildlife Habitat description.

Critical Wildlife Habitat #29

Year Revised: 2013

Year Established: 1983

Common Name: Chittenden Meadows

Critical Wildlife Habitat Criteria:

Vital SSC Habitat:

Wildlife Concentration: X

Unique Biodiversity: X

Location (General): Located west of Fourth of July Road, partially inside the Indian Peaks Wilderness, and adjacent to Chittenden Mountain.

Designation Description: Willow carr, adjacent old-growth spruce forest and tundra acting as a Montane Parkland supporting breeding, feeding and resting habitat for numerous species of special concern. Elk concentration area and hilltopping butterfly habitat.

Key Species:

SSC Known Occurrence: Rare Butterfly concentration; Avian and Small Mammal biodiversity; Elk (*Cervus elaphus*) concentration; White-tailed Ptarmigan (*Lagopus leucura*); White-winged Crossbill (*Loxia leucoptera*); Boreal Owl (*Aegolius funereus*); Brewer's Sparrow (*Spizella breweri*); Northern Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*); Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*); Golden-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus satrapa*); Fox Sparrow (*Passerella iliaca*); Wilson's Warbler (*Cardellina pusilla*); American Three-toed Woodpecker (*Picoides dorsalis*); Rock Wren (*Salpinctes obsoletus*); Pika (*Ochotona princeps*); Uinta Chipmunk (*Neotamias umbrinus*); Northern Pocket Gopher (*Thomomys talpoides*)

SSC Potential Occurrence (within habitat area): American Marten (*Martes americana*); Canada Lynx (*Lynx canadensis*)

Threats to Species or Habitat: Willow carrs are rare and sensitive habitats which are vulnerable to activities such as development, domestic animal grazing, and recreational activities such as OHV use, campgrounds or hiking trails placed inside the habitat, as well as construction of reservoirs, peat extraction and road construction. Elk are sensitive to human development and encroachment as well as habitat degradation. The listed butterflies are negatively affected by the reduction of prairie habitat size and fragmentation, weed encroachment into host plant habitats, diversion or modification of water courses and associated host plant communities, and the potentially disruptive effects of some methods of prescribed fire. White-tailed Ptarmigan are vulnerable forestry and recreational activities which reduce breeding and wintering habitat, particularly in willow carr and road construction along stream corridors; anticipated effects of global climate change may increase this species vulnerabilities. White-winged Crossbill are vulnerable to forestry and recreational activities which may impact coniferous forest habitat used for breeding and foraging, and anticipated effects of global climate change may increase this species vulnerabilities. Boreal owl are sensitive to forestry and recreational activities which reduce mature and dead trees used for nesting sites. Brewer's Sparrow are vulnerable to alteration of high-elevation shrubland habitat. Northern Flicker are susceptible to habitat fragmentation which reduces the availability of their preferred terrestrial invertebrates and to practices which reduce the availability of trees with dead or diseased tree trunks for nesting. Primary threats to Northern Goshawk populations are alteration of its preferred habitat by forestry management practices including modification or destruction of nesting. Additionally, increased fragmentation of habitat by roads, trails and development degrades goshawk habitat value; susceptible to collection by falconers. Golden-crowned Kinglet are vulnerable to forestry practices and recreational activities which reduce boreal spruce-fir forests and other habitats needed for nesting. Fox Sparrow are vulnerable to grazing or other practices which impact willow carr and understory breeding sites. Wilson's Warbler are sensitive to forestry, agricultural or recreational activities which reduce or fragment riparian habitats used for breeding. American Three-toed Woodpecker are vulnerable to forestry or recreational activities which remove trees with suitable nesting cavities as well as fragment habitat. Rock Wren are sensitive to practices which increase habitat fragmentation leading to increased nest parasitism or predation. Pika are vulnerable to human disturbance to their habitats such as recreational activities and development which may be magnified by environmental stressors associated with global climate change, as pikas appear to have high thermal sensitivity, unique dietary and hibernation requirements and are more likely to exhibit stress or for populations to be extirpated at low elevations and latitudes due to increasing temperatures. Uinta Chipmunk are sensitive to practices which fragment habitat and it is further

vulnerable to a lack of source colonists from other populations because it is isolated. Northern Pocket Gopher are vulnerable to practices which fragment habitat. Avian and small mammal biodiversity is sensitive to fragmentation, loss of structural diversity or reduced habitat productivity. This area contains significant trail mileage from USFS Trails 812 and 975, which parallels the riparian area.

Habitat Descriptions:

Habitat (General): Old-growth Engelmann spruce, subalpine fir forests and subalpine willow carr along with krummholz and alpine tundra.

Southwest Regional Gap Analysis Project Landcover Types: Rocky Mountain Subalpine Mesic Spruce-Fir Forest and Woodland, Rocky Mountain Dry Tundra, Rocky Mountain Subalpine Dry-Mesic Spruce-Fir Forest and Woodland, Rocky Mountain Subalpine-Montane Riparian Shrubland, Rocky Mountain Alpine Bedrock and Scree, Rocky Mountain Alpine Fell-Field, Rocky Mountain Subalpine Mesic Meadow, Rocky Mountain Alpine-Montane Wet Meadow, Rocky Mountain Aspen Forest and Woodland.

Size: 1223 acres

Elevation: 10144-12060 feet (Mean = 10960 feet)

Life Zone: Subalpine

Ownership: (Private: Public: X)

Comments: USFS.

Current Resource Protection and Management Designations:

See the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests Land and Resource Management Plan.

Information Sources and References: Contact Boulder County Parks and Open Space Resource Management staff for a list of information sources and references compiled to create this Critical Wildlife Habitat description.

Critical Wildlife Habitat #30

Year Revised: 2013

Year Established: 1983

Common Name: Arapaho Ranch - Tucker Homestead

Critical Wildlife Habitat Criteria:

Vital SSC Habitat:

Wildlife Concentration: X

Unique Biodiversity: X

Location (General): Area between Eldora and Nederland, north of the Eldora Ski Road, and south of Caribou Road, following a segment of Middle Boulder Creek.

Designation Description: Sub-alpine willow carr, riparian area, montane park, and old-growth forest supporting breeding, feeding and resting habitat for numerous species of special concern. Contains nearly 2 miles of Middle Boulder Creek.

Key Species:

SSC Known Occurrence: Elk (*Cervus elaphus*) concentration area; Brewer's Sparrow (*Spizella breweri*); White-tailed Ptarmigan (*Lagopus leucura*); White-winged Crossbill (*Loxia leucoptera*); Band-tailed Pigeon (*Patagioenas fasciata*); Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*); Northern Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*); Pine Siskin (*Spinus pinus*); Rocky Mountain Arctic Jutta (*Oeneis jutta*); Ring-necked Duck (*Aythya collaris*); Golden-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus satrapa*); Fox Sparrow (*Passerella iliaca*); Avian and Small Mammal biodiversity

SSC Potential Occurrence (within habitat area):

Threats to Species or Habitat: Willow carrs are rare and sensitive habitats which are vulnerable to activities such as development, domestic animal grazing, and recreational activities such as OHV use, campgrounds or hiking trails placed inside the habitat, as well as construction of reservoirs, peat extraction and road construction. Elk are sensitive to human development and encroachment as well as habitat degradation. Brewer's Sparrow are vulnerable to alteration of high-elevation shrubland habitat. White-tailed Ptarmigan are vulnerable forestry and recreational activities which reduce breeding and wintering habitat, particularly in willow carr and road construction along stream corridors; anticipated effects of global climate change may increase this species vulnerabilities. White-winged Crossbill are vulnerable to forestry and recreational activities which may impact coniferous forest habitat used for breeding and foraging, and anticipated effects of global climate change may increase this species vulnerabilities. Band-tailed Pigeon are vulnerable to overhunting and practices which increase habitat fragmentation. Primary threats to Northern Goshawk populations are alteration of its preferred habitat by forestry management practices including modification or destruction of nesting. Additionally, increased fragmentation of habitat by roads, trails and development degrades goshawk habitat value; susceptible to collection by falconers. Northern Harrier is especially vulnerable due to nesting habitat declines in and around wetlands due to land conversion and recreational use; this is a candidate for the most imperiled avian species in Boulder County. Pine Siskin are vulnerable to forestry or recreational practices which fragment habitat which may increase predation or parasitism of adults or young. The Rocky Mountain Arctic Jutta is dependent on open lodgepole pine stands and any alteration of the vegetational composition of these habitats could result in local extirpation. Ring-necked Duck are vulnerable to development or degradation of wetland habitat on their breeding grounds, wintering grounds, and migration routes; particularly vulnerable to consuming spent lead-shot found on the wetland bottoms where they feed. Golden-crowned Kinglet are vulnerable to forestry practices and recreational activities which reduce boreal spruce-fir forests and other habitats needed for nesting. Fox Sparrow are vulnerable to grazing or other practices which impact willow carr and understory breeding sites. Avian and small mammal biodiversity is sensitive to fragmentation, loss of structural diversity or reduced habitat productivity.

Habitat Descriptions:

Habitat (General): Montane parkland of glacial origin with mixed old-growth forest, sub-alpine willow carr, meadows, riparian woodlands and extensive wetlands. Middle Boulder Creek and North Beaver Creek run through the site.

Southwest Regional Gap Analysis Project Landcover Types: Rocky Mountain Lodgepole Pine Forest, Rocky Mountain Ponderosa Pine Woodland, Rocky Mountain Aspen Forest and Woodland, Rocky Mountain Subalpine-Montane Riparian Shrubland, Rocky

Mountain Montane Mesic Mixed Conifer Forest and Woodland, Agriculture, Rocky Mountain Subalpine-Montane Riparian Woodland, Rocky Mountain Alpine-Montane Wet Meadow, Inter-Mountain Basins Montane Sagebrush Steppe, Open Water, Rocky Mountain Montane Dry-Mesic Mixed Conifer Forest and Woodland, Developed, Medium - High Intensity, Rocky Mountain Gambel Oak-Mixed Montane Shrubland, Rocky Mountain Subalpine Dry-Mesic Spruce-Fir Forest and Woodland, Southern Rocky Mountain Montane-Subalpine Grassland, Rocky Mountain Subalpine Mesic Spruce-Fir Forest and Woodland.

Size: 1193 acres

Elevation: 8336-9450 feet (Mean = 8637 feet)

Life Zone: Montane

Ownership: (Private: ☒ Public: ☒)

Comments: Private property, USFS and Private CE.

Current Resource Protection and Management Designations:

See the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests Land and Resource Management Plan.

Information Sources and References: Contact Boulder County Parks and Open Space Resource Management staff for a list of information sources and references compiled to create this Critical Wildlife Habitat description.

Critical Wildlife Habitat #31

Year Revised: 2013

Year Established: 1983

Common Name: Boulder Mountain Parks - Eldorado Mountain

Critical Wildlife Habitat Criteria:

Vital SSC Habitat: X

Wildlife Concentration:

Unique Biodiversity:

Location (General): Habitat areas roughly follow the Flatirons formations starting at Mt. Sanitas in the north and running south to Eldorado Mtn. and the southern county border.

Designation Description: Tilted sandstone cliffs (Boulder Flatirons) that provide high-quality nesting habitat for several cliff nesting raptors, including Golden Eagle, Peregrine Falcon and Prairie Falcon. Caves and cracks in this area support breeding populations of several bat species of special concern, such as the Townsend's Big-eared Bat. The (proposed) CWH boundaries generally follow OSMP seasonal wildlife closure boundaries.

Key Species:

SSC Known Occurrence: Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*); Prairie Falcon (*Falco mexicanus*); Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*); Flammulated Owl (*Otus flammeus*); Townsend's Big Eared Bat (*Corynorhinus townsendii*); Fringed Myotis (*Myotis thysanodes*); Big Brown Bat (*Eptesicus fuscus*); Little Brown Myotis (*Myotis lucifugus*); Hops Feeding Azure (*Clestina humulus*); Three-toed Woodpecker (*Picoides dorsalis*); Ringtail (*Bassariscus astutus*); Virginia's Warbler (*Oreothlypis virginiae*); Plumbeous Vireo (*Vireo plumbeus*); Pine Siskin (*Spinus pinus*)

SSC Potential Occurrence (within habitat area): American Badger, Hoary Bat, Silver-haired Bat, Beaver, Indigo Bunting, Lazuli Bunting, Bushtit, Colorado Chipmunk, Uinta Chipmunk, Lake Darter, American Dipper, Hudsonian Emerald Dragonfly, Mottled Duskywing, Moss's Elfin, American Emerald, Northern Flicker, Willow Flycatcher, Gray Fox, Chorus Frog, Northern Pocket Gopher, White-tailed Jackrabbit, River Jewelwing, Belted Kingfisher, Northern Rock Mouse, Fringed Myotis, Western Small-footed Myotis, Long-eared Owl, Mexican Spotted Owl, Northern Pygmy Owl, Band-tailed Pigeon, North American Porcupine, Prairie Rattlesnake, American Redstart, Tiger Salamander, Western Scrub-Jay, Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep, American Water Shrew, Dwarf Shrew, Merriam's Shrew, Snow's Skipper, Two-banded Checkered Skipper, Two-spotted Skipper, Milk Snake, Brewer's Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Sage Thrasher, Veery, Heather Vole, Wilson's Warbler, Cedar Waxwing, Rock Wren, Ovenbird

Threats to Species or Habitat: Peregrine Falcon, Prairie Falcon and Golden Eagle are vulnerable to human encroachment near their nests sites during the breeding season, such as from climbing; disturbances can result in nest abandonment and negatively impact recruitment rates and population trends. This area receives heavy climbing pressure, necessitating seasonal closures of crags and patrol during the nesting season. Flammulated Owl are vulnerable to forestry practices in old growth forest and pesticides use in the habitat can lead to nest failure. Townsend's Big Eared Bat, Fringed Myotis, Big Brown Bat and Little Brown Myotis are vulnerable to loss of roosting and breeding habitat by habitat fragmentation; increased recreational activities and development may increase the potential of human-transmitted White-Nosed Syndrome into winter colonies; bats accumulate toxins if found in prey near habitat. Hops Feeding Azure are negatively affected by the reduction of prairie habitat size and fragmentation, weed encroachment into host plant habitats, diversion or modification of water courses and associated host plant communities, and the potentially disruptive effects of some methods of prescribed fire. American Three-toed Woodpecker are vulnerable to forestry or recreational activities which remove trees with suitable nesting cavities as well as fragment habitat. Ringtail and vulnerable to excessive or incidental trapping, fragmentation of habitat which reduce access to multiple den locations, mortality from automobile strike and insufficient knowledge of population levels. Virginia's Warbler are vulnerable to forestry practices which may lead to increased cowbird parasitism and reduction of breeding success. Plumbeous Vireo are sensitive to fragmentation of ponderosa pine habitats. Pine Siskin are vulnerable to forestry or recreational practices which fragment habitat which may increase predation or parasitism of adults or young.

Habitat Descriptions:

Habitat (General): Tilted sandstone cliffs and rock outcrops, commonly called the Flatirons that provide suitable ledges and crevices for nesting raptors.

Southwest Regional Gap Analysis Project Landcover Types: Rocky Mountain Ponderosa Pine Woodland, Rocky Mountain Montane Mesic Mixed Conifer Forest and Woodland, Rocky Mountain Lower Montane-Foothill Shrubland, Western Great Plains Foothill and Piedmont Grassland, Rocky Mountain Montane Dry-Mesic Mixed Conifer Forest and Woodland, Agriculture, Inter-Mountain Basins Montane Sagebrush Steppe, Inter-Mountain Basins Big Sagebrush Shrubland, Rocky Mountain Lodgepole Pine Forest, Invasive Perennial Grassland.

Size: 1474 acres

Elevation: 5597-8504 feet (Mean = 7032 feet)

Life Zone: Montane

Ownership: (Private: ☒ Public: ☒)

Comments: City of Boulder, State of Colorado, NCAR and private property.

Current Resource Protection and Management Designations:

See relevant city of Boulder management plans. Raptor nesting sites are protected with seasonal closures (1 February – 31 July or until warranted). Bat roosts are either protected seasonally (April thru September / October) via closures or with gates.

Information Sources and References: Contact Boulder County Parks and Open Space Resource Management staff for a list of information sources and references compiled to create this Critical Wildlife Habitat description.

Critical Wildlife Habitat #35

Year Revised: 2013

Year Established: 1983

Common Name: Lost Lake

Critical Wildlife Habitat Criteria:

Vital SSC Habitat: X

Wildlife Concentration:

Unique Biodiversity:

Location (General): West of the town of Eldora, on US Forest Service Land, situated 1.5mi from the Hessie Trailhead.

Designation Description: Sub-alpine lake and associated wetlands known to support Rocky Mountain Capshell and likely supporting other lake-associated species of special concern.

Key Species:

SSC Known Occurrence: Rocky Mountain Capshell (*Acroloxus coloradensis*)

SSC Potential Occurrence (within habitat area):

Threats to Species or Habitat: Rocky Mountain Capshell are only known in Colorado from Boulder County (based on re-discovery in the county) and are vulnerable to commercial and recreational development surrounding aquatic habitats which decrease water quality; remaining habitats are known to be polluted and in areas of rapid urbanization and population growth; habitats on private land are not protected and inaccessible to population assessment; commercial drawdown of water levels for recreational use may cause local extirpation; salting of roads around the habitat may increase lake pollution and threat to the species.

Habitat Descriptions:

Habitat (General): Subalpine lake with perimeter wetlands and bordered by subalpine forests.

Southwest Regional Gap Analysis Project Landcover Types: Rocky Mountain Subalpine Mesic Spruce-Fir Forest and Woodland, Rocky Mountain Lodgepole Pine Forest, Rocky Mountain Subalpine-Montane Riparian Shrubland, Rocky Mountain Aspen Forest and Woodland, Rocky Mountain Cliff and Canyon, Rocky Mountain Subalpine Dry-Mesic Spruce-Fir Forest and Woodland, Rocky Mountain Subalpine-Montane Riparian Woodland.

Size: 53 acres

Elevation: 9688-10051 feet (Mean = 9820 feet)

Life Zone: Subalpine

Ownership: (Private: X Public: X)

Comments: USFS and private property.

Current Resource Protection and Management Designations:

See the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests Land and Resource Management Plan.

Information Sources and References: Contact Boulder County Parks and Open Space Resource Management staff for a list of information sources and references compiled to create this Critical Wildlife Habitat description.

Critical Wildlife Habitat #36

Year Revised: 2013

Year Established: 1983

Common Name: Carolyn Holmberg Preserve at Rock Creek Farm

Critical Wildlife Habitat Criteria:

Vital SSC Habitat: X

Wildlife Concentration:

Unique Biodiversity:

Location (General): A fenced area inside the Rock Creek Farm, Boulder County Open Space property. Located north of Rock Creek between S 104th St. and US287.

Designation Description: Long-documented burrowing owl nesting habitat within a designated conservation area in Rock Creek Farm; rare grassland habitat within heavily developed region of county.

Key Species:

SSC Known Occurrence: Burrowing Owl (*Athene cunicularia*); Black Tailed Prairie Dog (*Cynomys ludovicianus*); Ord's Kangaroo Rat (*Dipodomys ordii*)

SSC Potential Occurrence (within habitat area): American Badger, Big Brown Bat, Brazilian Free-tailed Bat, Townsend's Big-eared Bat, Tricolored Bat, Colorado Blue, Colorado Chipmunk, Mottled Duskywing, Golden Eagle, Regal Fritillary, Northern Pocket Gopher, Ferruginous Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, Horned Lark, Northern Mockingbird, Northern Grasshopper Mouse, Olive-back Pocket Mouse, Plains Harvest Mouse, Plains Pocket Mouse, Silky Pocket Mouse, Short-eared Owl, Dwarf Shrew, Least Shrew, Merriam's Shrew, Loggerhead Shrike, Arogos Skipper, Cross-line Skipper, Dusted Skipper, Ottoe Skipper, Rhesus Skipper, Simius Roadside Skipper, Lined Snake, Milk Snake, Cassin's Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, Thirteen-lined Ground Squirrel

Threats to Species or Habitat: Burrowing Owl nesting is sensitive to the loss of nesting sites due to prairie dog declines, disturbance due to urbanization or recreational use of nesting areas, and pesticide use to control pest species which are then consumed by the owls. Black Tailed Prairie Dogs are vulnerable to direct population declines from large-scale pest control programs and outbreaks of sylvatic plague, as well as conversion of prairie habitat to agriculture, urban development or recreational uses. Ord's Kangaroo Rat is vulnerable to the habitat fragmentation and loss of restricted habitat.

Habitat Descriptions:

Habitat (General): Prairie Dog colony and associated grassland.

Southwest Regional Gap Analysis Project Landcover Types: Invasive Perennial Grassland, Agriculture, Developed, Open Space - Low Intensity.

Size: 41 acres

Elevation: 5261-5286 feet (Mean = 5274 feet)

Life Zone: Plains

Ownership: (Private: Public: X)

Comments: BCPOS Open Space.

Current Resource Protection and Management Designations:

See relevant BCPOS management plans.

Information Sources and References: Contact Boulder County Parks and Open Space Resource Management staff for a list of information sources and references compiled to create this Critical Wildlife Habitat description.

Critical Wildlife Habitat #37

Year Revised: 2013

Year Established: 1983

Common Name: Sombrero Marsh

Critical Wildlife Habitat Criteria:

Vital SSC Habitat:

Wildlife Concentration:

Unique Biodiversity: X

Location (General): Located south of the intersection between SH7 and N 63rd St.

Designation Description: One of two natural playas in Boulder County (the other is Gaynor Lake - CWH16) with emergent wetlands supporting Great Blue Heron and Black-crowned Night Heron as well as amphibian species of special concern. This naturally-occurring, perennially-open water body also provides nesting and resting habitat for substantial numbers of waterfowl and shorebirds.

Key Species:

SSC Known Occurrence: Black-Crowned Night Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*); Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*); Chorus Frog (*Pseudacris triseriata*); Yellow-headed Black Bird (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*)

SSC Potential Occurrence (within habitat area): American Avocet, American Badger, Brazilian Free-tailed Bat, Beaver, American Bittern, Least Bittern, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Colorado Blue, Bobolink, Lark Bunting, Double-crested Cormorant, Wood Duck, Mottled Duskywing, Bald Eagle, Great Egret, Prairie Falcon, Giant Floater, Regal Fritillary, Northern Leopard Frog, Eared Grebe; Northern Pocket Gopher, Northern Harrier, Ferruginous Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, Belted Kingfisher, Horned Lark, Short Horned Lizard, Northern Mockingbird, Northern Grasshopper Mouse, Olive-back Pocket Mouse, Plains Harvest Mouse, Plains Pocket Mouse, Silky Pocket Mouse, Burrowing Owl, Short-eared Owl, Cylindrical Papershell, Banded Physa, Black-tailed Prairie Dog, Ord's Kangaroo Rat, Tiger Salamander, Least Shrew, Merriam's Shrew, Loggerhead Shrike, Arogos Skipper, Cross-line Skipper, Dusted Skipper, Ottoe Skipper, Rhesus Skipper, Simius Roadside Skipper, Common Garter Snake, Lined Snake, Milk Snake, Cassin's Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, Spotted Ground Squirrel, Thirteen-lined Ground Squirrel, Stonecat, Plains Spadefoot Toad, Plain's Topminnow, Spiny Softshell Turtle, Meadow Vole

Threats to Species or Habitat: Black-crowned Night Herons are vulnerable to human disturbance at nesting colonies which tend to be grouped in restricted areas, and as top predators they are sensitive to the accumulation of toxins in their habitat which can be found in their prey. Great Blue Heron are sensitive to the loss of nest site trees or excessive site encroachment, and survival of adults and young depend on prey from nearby high quality aquatic habitats producing fish and amphibians. Chorus Frog are sensitive to agricultural practices which use pesticides, herbicides or fertilizers in the habitat, and vulnerable to loss of aquatic habitat quality. This area is also the site of the Thorne Ecological Institute which conducts educational field trips, birding tours, and bird banding within the site.

Habitat Descriptions:

Habitat (General): Sombrero Marsh is one of two naturally occurring playas in Boulder County (shallow with no outflow and fed primarily by drainage and groundwater); Includes wetland vegetation around perimeter.

Southwest Regional Gap Analysis Project Landcover Types: Agriculture, Developed, Invasive Perennial Grassland, Western Great Plains Riparian Woodland and Shrubland, Western Great Plains Floodplain Herbaceous Wetland.

Size: 29 acres

Elevation: 5232-5254 feet (Mean = 5239 feet)

Life Zone: Plains

Ownership: (Private: X Public: X)

Comments: City of Boulder, Boulder County Open Space and private property.

Current Resource Protection and Management Designations:

See relevant BCPOS and city of Boulder management plans. Sombrero Marsh is managed as a Habitat Conservation Area (no off-trail travel without a permit). While a trail serves the eastern side of the marsh, off-trail access is limited to staff and researchers.

Information Sources and References: Contact Boulder County Parks and Open Space Resource Management staff for a list of information sources and references compiled to create this Critical Wildlife Habitat description.

Critical Wildlife Habitat #38

Year Revised: 2013

Year Established: 1994

Common Name: Lazy H. Ranch Willow Carr

Critical Wildlife Habitat Criteria:

Vital SSC Habitat: X

Wildlife Concentration:

Unique Biodiversity: X

Location (General): Located NE of Allenspark, near the intersection of SH7 and Rock Creek.

Designation Description: Willow carrs are important avian habitats comprising about 1% of the mountain landscape in Boulder County, having 2-3 times the breeding bird density as compared to adjacent habitats and supporting several avian and mammal species which are restricted to this habitat type. This site supports an active American Beaver colony and associated species.

Key Species:

SSC Known Occurrence: Avian and Small Mammal biodiversity; American Beaver (*Castor canadensis*)

SSC Potential Occurrence (within habitat area):

Threats to Species or Habitat: Willow carrs are rare and sensitive habitats which are vulnerable to activities such as development, domestic animal grazing, and recreational activities such as OHV use, campgrounds or hiking trails placed inside the habitat, as well as construction of reservoirs, peat extraction and road construction. American Beaver are vulnerable to trapping for sport or direct removal of dams or individuals.

Habitat Descriptions:

Habitat (General): Montane willow carr. Vegetation is dominated by willow shrubs, alder, birch, sedges and grasses. Rock Creek flows through site. Active beaver colony and associated ponds.

Southwest Regional Gap Analysis Project Landcover Types: Rocky Mountain Ponderosa Pine Woodland, Rocky Mountain Montane Mesic Mixed Conifer Forest and Woodland, Rocky Mountain Montane Dry-Mesic Mixed Conifer Forest and Woodland, Southern Rocky Mountain Montane-Subalpine Grassland, Rocky Mountain Subalpine-Montane Riparian Shrubland, Rocky Mountain Lodgepole Pine Forest, Rocky Mountain Subalpine-Montane Riparian Woodland, Inter-Mountain Basins Montane Sagebrush Steppe, Rocky Mountain Lower Montane-Foothill Shrubland, Invasive Perennial Grassland

Size: 159 acres

Elevation: 7959-8368 feet (Mean = 8164 feet)

Life Zone: Montane

Ownership: (Private: X Public: X)

Comments: USFS and private property.

Current Resource Protection and Management Designations:

See the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests Land and Resource Management Plan.

Information Sources and References: Contact Boulder County Parks and Open Space Resource Management staff for a list of information sources and references compiled to create this Critical Wildlife Habitat description.

Critical Wildlife Habitat #39

Year Revised: 2013

Year Established: 1994

Common Name: Coney Flats Willow Carr

Critical Wildlife Habitat Criteria:

Vital SSC Habitat:

Wildlife Concentration:

Unique Biodiversity: X

Location (General): Located in the Indian Peaks Wilderness Area along Coney Creek west of Peaceful Valley and Camp Dick. CR96J moves through the eastern side of the habitat.

Designation Description: Willow carrs are important avian habitats comprising about 1% of the mountain landscape in Boulder County, having 2-3 times the breeding bird density as compared to adjacent habitats and supporting several avian and mammal species which are restricted to this habitat type.

Key Species:

SSC Known Occurrence: Avian and Small Mammal biodiversity

SSC Potential Occurrence (within habitat area):

Threats to Species or Habitat: Willow carrs are rare and sensitive habitats which are vulnerable to activities such as development, domestic animal grazing, and recreational activities such as OHV use, campgrounds or hiking trails placed inside the habitat, as well as construction of reservoirs, peat extraction and road construction. This area is bisected by the Beaver Creek Trail (USFS 911) and the Coney Lake Trail (USFS 914), which parallel the creek in much of the area.

Habitat Descriptions:

Habitat (General): Subalpine willow carr. Vegetation is dominated by willow and birch shrubs along with sedges and grasses. Coney Creek flows through site.

Southwest Regional Gap Analysis Project Landcover Types: Rocky Mountain Lodgepole Pine Forest, Rocky Mountain Subalpine Mesic Spruce-Fir Forest and Woodland, Rocky Mountain Aspen Forest and Woodland, Rocky Mountain Subalpine Dry-Mesic Spruce-Fir Forest and Woodland, Rocky Mountain Subalpine-Montane Riparian Shrubland, Rocky Mountain Subalpine-Montane Riparian Woodland, Rocky Mountain Cliff and Canyon, Rocky Mountain Alpine Bedrock and Scree.

Size: 350 acres

Elevation: 9692-10292 feet (Mean = 9893 feet)

Life Zone: Subalpine

Ownership: (Private: Public: X)

Comments: USFS

Current Resource Protection and Management Designations:

See the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests Land and Resource Management Plan.

Information Sources and References: Contact Boulder County Parks and Open Space Resource Management staff for a list of information sources and references compiled to create this Critical Wildlife Habitat description.

Critical Wildlife Habitat #40

Year Revised: 2013

Year Established: 1994

Common Name: Mitchell Lake Willow Carr

Critical Wildlife Habitat Criteria:

Vital SSC Habitat:

Wildlife Concentration:

Unique Biodiversity: X

Location (General): Located inside the Indian Peaks Wilderness Area, NW of the Pawnee Campground at Brainerd Lake Recreation Area.

Designation Description: Willow carrs are important avian habitats comprising about 1% of the mountain landscape in Boulder County, having 2-3 times the breeding bird density as compared to adjacent habitats and supporting several avian and mammal species which are restricted to this habitat type.

Key Species:

SSC Known Occurrence: Avian and Small Mammal biodiversity

SSC Potential Occurrence (within habitat area):

Threats to Species or Habitat: Willow carrs are rare and sensitive habitats which are vulnerable to activities such as development, domestic animal grazing, and recreational activities such as OHV use, campgrounds or hiking trails placed inside the habitat, as well as construction of reservoirs, peat extraction and road construction. This area is bisected by the very busy Mitchell Lake Trail (USFS 912).

Habitat Descriptions:

Habitat (General): Subalpine willow carr. Vegetation is dominated by willow and birch shrubs along with sedges and grasses.

Southwest Regional Gap Analysis Project Landcover Types: Rocky Mountain Subalpine Dry-Mesic Spruce-Fir Forest and Woodland, Rocky Mountain Alpine Bedrock and Scree, Rocky Mountain Subalpine-Montane Riparian Shrubland, Rocky Mountain Subalpine Mesic Spruce-Fir Forest and Woodland, Rocky Mountain Cliff and Canyon, Rocky Mountain Aspen Forest and Woodland.

Size: 378 acres

Elevation: 10493-11479 feet (Mean = 10825 feet)

Life Zone: Subalpine

Ownership: (Private: Public: X)

Comments: USFS

Current Resource Protection and Management Designations:

See the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests Land and Resource Management Plan.

Information Sources and References: Contact Boulder County Parks and Open Space Resource Management staff for a list of information sources and references compiled to create this Critical Wildlife Habitat description.

Critical Wildlife Habitat #41

Year Revised: 2013

Year Established: 1994

Common Name: Coney Lake Willow Carr

Critical Wildlife Habitat Criteria:

Vital SSC Habitat:

Wildlife Concentration:

Unique Biodiversity: X

Location (General): Located in the Indian Peaks Wilderness Area and occupies an area roughly between the Upper Coney Lake and Coney Lake, near the Continental Divide (within 1/2 mile).

Designation Description: Willow carrs are important avian habitats comprising about 1% of the mountain landscape in Boulder County, having 2-3 times the breeding bird density as compared to adjacent habitats and supporting several avian and mammal species which are restricted to this habitat type.

Key Species:

SSC Known Occurrence: Avian and Small Mammal biodiversity

SSC Potential Occurrence (within habitat area):

Threats to Species or Habitat: Willow carrs are rare and sensitive habitats which are vulnerable to activities such as development, domestic animal grazing, and recreational activities such as OHV use, campgrounds or hiking trails placed inside the habitat, as well as construction of reservoirs, peat extraction and road construction. This area is accessed by the Coney Lake Trail (USFS 914).

Habitat Descriptions:

Habitat (General): Subalpine willow carr. Vegetation is dominated by willow and birch shrubs along with sedges and grasses. This willow carr is situated between 2 lakes - Coney Lake and Upper Coney Lake.

Southwest Regional Gap Analysis Project Landcover Types: Rocky Mountain Alpine Bedrock and Scree, Rocky Mountain Subalpine-Montane Riparian Shrubland, Rocky Mountain Subalpine Dry-Mesic Spruce-Fir Forest and Woodland, Rocky Mountain Subalpine Mesic Spruce-Fir Forest and Woodland, Rocky Mountain Aspen Forest and Woodland, Rocky Mountain Cliff and Canyon, Rocky Mountain Alpine Fell-Field, Rocky Mountain Dry Tundra.

Size: 345 acres

Elevation: 10438-11334 feet (Mean = 10819 feet)

Life Zone: Subalpine

Ownership: (Private: Public: X)

Comments: USFS

Current Resource Protection and Management Designations:

See the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests Land and Resource Management Plan.

Information Sources and References: Contact Boulder County Parks and Open Space Resource Management staff for a list of information sources and references compiled to create this Critical Wildlife Habitat description.

Critical Wildlife Habitat #42

Year Revised: 2013

Year Established: 1994

Common Name: Long Lake Willow Carr

Critical Wildlife Habitat Criteria:

Vital SSC Habitat:

Wildlife Concentration:

Unique Biodiversity: X

Location (General): Located inside the Indian Peaks Wilderness Area between Brainard Lake and Lake Isabelle along South St. Vrain Creek.

Designation Description: Willow carrs are important avian habitats comprising about 1% of the mountain landscape in Boulder County, having 2-3 times the breeding bird density as compared to adjacent habitats and supporting several avian and mammal species which are restricted to this habitat type.

Key Species:

SSC Known Occurrence: Avian and Small Mammal biodiversity

SSC Potential Occurrence (within habitat area):

Threats to Species or Habitat: Willow carrs are rare and sensitive habitats which are vulnerable to activities such as development, domestic animal grazing, and recreational activities such as OHV use, campgrounds or hiking trails placed inside the habitat, as well as construction of reservoirs, peat extraction and road construction. This area is subject to perhaps the highest recreational hiking pressure in the Indian Peaks Wilderness (Pawnee Pass Trail - USFS 907). Long Lake is completely encircled by trail.

Habitat Descriptions:

Habitat (General): Subalpine willow carr. Vegetation is dominated by willow and birch shrubs along with sedges and grasses. The willow carr are situated between Long Lake and Lake Isabelle and northeast of Long Lake.

Southwest Regional Gap Analysis Project Landcover Types: Rocky Mountain Subalpine Dry-Mesic Spruce-Fir Forest and Woodland, Rocky Mountain Subalpine Mesic Spruce-Fir Forest and Woodland, Rocky Mountain Subalpine-Montane Riparian Shrubland, Rocky Mountain Alpine Bedrock and Scree, Rocky Mountain Dry Tundra, Rocky Mountain Lodgepole Pine Forest.

Size: 827 acres

Elevation: 10355-11267 feet (Mean = 10693 feet)

Life Zone: Subalpine

Ownership: (Private: Public: X)

Comments: USFS

Current Resource Protection and Management Designations:

See the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests Land and Resource Management Plan.

Information Sources and References: Contact Boulder County Parks and Open Space Resource Management staff for a list of information sources and references compiled to create this Critical Wildlife Habitat description.

Critical Wildlife Habitat #43

Year Revised: 2013

Year Established: 1994

Common Name: South St. Vrain Willow Carr

Critical Wildlife Habitat Criteria:

Vital SSC Habitat:

Wildlife Concentration:

Unique Biodiversity: X

Location (General): Located north of the intersection between CR104 and Brainard Lake Drive, near the city of Ward.

Designation Description: Willow carrs are important avian habitats comprising about 1% of the mountain landscape in Boulder County, having 2-3 times the breeding bird density as compared to adjacent habitats and supporting several avian and mammal species which are restricted to this habitat type.

Key Species:

SSC Known Occurrence: Avian and Small Mammal biodiversity

SSC Potential Occurrence (within habitat area):

Threats to Species or Habitat: Willow carrs are rare and sensitive habitats which are vulnerable to activities such as development, domestic animal grazing, and recreational activities such as OHV use, campgrounds or hiking trails placed inside the habitat, as well as construction of reservoirs, peat extraction and road construction. This area is bisected by both the Wapiti Trail (USFS 816) and the Sourdough Trail (USFS 835).

Habitat Descriptions:

Habitat (General): Subalpine willow carr. Vegetation is dominated by willow and birch shrubs along with sedges and grasses.

Southwest Regional Gap Analysis Project Landcover Types: Rocky Mountain Lodgepole Pine Forest, Rocky Mountain Subalpine Dry-Mesic Spruce-Fir Forest and Woodland, Rocky Mountain Subalpine Mesic Spruce-Fir Forest and Woodland, Rocky Mountain Aspen Forest and Woodland, Rocky Mountain Subalpine-Montane Riparian Shrubland.

Size: 280 acres

Elevation: 9534-10088 feet (Mean = 9834 feet)

Life Zone: Subalpine

Ownership: (Private: Public: X)

Comments: USFS and BCPOS.

Current Resource Protection and Management Designations:

See the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests Land and Resource Management Plan.

Information Sources and References: Contact Boulder County Parks and Open Space Resource Management staff for a list of information sources and references compiled to create this Critical Wildlife Habitat description.

Critical Wildlife Habitat #44

Year Revised: 2013

Year Established: 1994

Common Name: Lefthand Reservoir Willow Carr

Critical Wildlife Habitat Criteria:

Vital SSC Habitat:

Wildlife Concentration:

Unique Biodiversity: X

Location (General): Located along the west side of Left Hand Valley Reservoir No. 2, at the end of CR104. Near the Brainard Lake recreation area

Designation Description: Willow carrs are important avian habitats comprising about 1% of the mountain landscape in Boulder County, having 2-3 times the breeding bird density as compared to adjacent habitats and supporting several avian and mammal species which are restricted to this habitat type.

Key Species:

SSC Known Occurrence: Avian and Small Mammal biodiversity

SSC Potential Occurrence (within habitat area):

Threats to Species or Habitat: Willow carrs are rare and sensitive habitats which are vulnerable to activities such as development, domestic animal grazing, and recreational activities such as OHV use, campgrounds or hiking trails placed inside the habitat, as well as construction of reservoirs, peat extraction and road construction. Lefthand Valley Reservoir is reached by 4WD road (CR 104) and subject to fishing and general recreation presence.

Habitat Descriptions:

Habitat (General): Subalpine willow carr. Vegetation is dominated by willow and birch shrubs along with sedges and grasses. Willow carr is on southwest border of Left Hand Park Reservoir.

Southwest Regional Gap Analysis Project Landcover Types: Rocky Mountain Subalpine Dry-Mesic Spruce-Fir Forest and Woodland, Rocky Mountain Subalpine Mesic Spruce-Fir Forest and Woodland, Rocky Mountain Subalpine-Montane Riparian Shrubland, Rocky Mountain Alpine Bedrock and Scree, Rocky Mountain Aspen Forest and Woodland.

Size: 249 acres

Elevation: 10645-10862 feet (Mean = 10704 feet)

Life Zone: Subalpine

Ownership: (Private: X Public: X)

Comments: USFS and private property.

Current Resource Protection and Management Designations:

See the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests Land and Resource Management Plan.

Information Sources and References: Contact Boulder County Parks and Open Space Resource Management staff for a list of information sources and references compiled to create this Critical Wildlife Habitat description.

Critical Wildlife Habitat #45

Year Revised: 2013

Year Established: 1994

Common Name: Boulder Watershed Willow Carr

Critical Wildlife Habitat Criteria:

Vital SSC Habitat:

Wildlife Concentration:

Unique Biodiversity: X

Location (General): Located north of the intersection between Rainbow Lakes Rd. and North Boulder Creek. North of the Rainbow Lakes Campground

Designation Description: Willow carrs are important avian habitats comprising about 1% of the mountain landscape in Boulder County, having 2-3 times the breeding bird density as compared to adjacent habitats and supporting several avian and mammal species which are restricted to this habitat type.

Key Species:

SSC Known Occurrence: Avian and Small Mammal biodiversity

SSC Potential Occurrence (within habitat area):

Threats to Species or Habitat: Willow carrs are rare and sensitive habitats which are vulnerable to activities such as development, domestic animal grazing, and recreational activities such as OHV use, campgrounds or hiking trails placed inside the habitat, as well as construction of reservoirs, peat extraction and road construction. This area has perhaps the most restricted access in Boulder County.

Habitat Descriptions:

Habitat (General): Subalpine willow carr. Vegetation is dominated by willow and birch shrubs along with sedges and grasses. North Boulder Creek flows through area.

Southwest Regional Gap Analysis Project Landcover Types: Rocky Mountain Subalpine Dry-Mesic Spruce-Fir Forest and Woodland, Rocky Mountain Lodgepole Pine Forest, Rocky Mountain Subalpine Mesic Spruce-Fir Forest and Woodland, Rocky Mountain Subalpine-Montane Riparian Shrubland, Rocky Mountain Cliff and Canyon, Rocky Mountain Aspen Forest and Woodland, Rocky Mountain Subalpine-Montane Riparian Woodland.

Size: 511 acres

Elevation: 9824-10365 feet (Mean = 10091 feet)

Life Zone: Subalpine

Ownership: (Private: Public: X)

Comments: City of Boulder and USFS.

Current Resource Protection and Management Designations:

See the relevant city of Boulder management plan. See the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests Land and Resource Management Plan.

Information Sources and References: Contact Boulder County Parks and Open Space Resource Management staff for a list of information sources and references compiled to create this Critical Wildlife Habitat description.

Critical Wildlife Habitat #46

Year Revised: 2013

Year Established: 1994

Common Name: Lake Albion Willow Carr

Critical Wildlife Habitat Criteria:

Vital SSC Habitat:

Wildlife Concentration:

Unique Biodiversity: X

Location (General): Located between the City of Boulder Watershed and Niwot Ridge, and occurs over a stretch of North Boulder Creek.

Designation Description: Willow carrs are important avian habitats comprising about 1% of the mountain landscape in Boulder County, having 2-3 times the breeding bird density as compared to adjacent habitats and supporting several avian and mammal species which are restricted to this habitat type.

Key Species:

SSC Known Occurrence: Avian and Small Mammal biodiversity

SSC Potential Occurrence (within habitat area):

Threats to Species or Habitat: Willow carrs are rare and sensitive habitats which are vulnerable to activities such as development, domestic animal grazing, and recreational activities such as OHV use, campgrounds or hiking trails placed inside the habitat, as well as construction of reservoirs, peat extraction and road construction. This area has perhaps the most restricted access in Boulder County.

Habitat Descriptions:

Habitat (General): Subalpine willow carr. Vegetation is dominated by willow and birch shrubs along with sedges and grasses. Small ponds exist within willow carr and North Boulder Creek flows through.

Southwest Regional Gap Analysis Project Landcover Types: Rocky Mountain Subalpine Dry-Mesic Spruce-Fir Forest and Woodland, Rocky Mountain Subalpine Mesic Spruce-Fir Forest and Woodland, Rocky Mountain Subalpine-Montane Riparian Shrubland, Rocky Mountain Alpine Bedrock and Scree, Rocky Mountain Cliff and Canyon, Rocky Mountain Aspen Forest and Woodland, Rocky Mountain Lodgepole Pine Forest.

Size: 231 acres

Elevation: 10596-11096 feet (Mean = 10810 feet)

Life Zone: Subalpine

Ownership: (Private: Public: X)

Comments: City of Boulder and USFS.

Current Resource Protection and Management Designations:

See the relevant city of Boulder management plan. See the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests Land and Resource Management Plan.

Information Sources and References: Contact Boulder County Parks and Open Space Resource Management staff for a list of information sources and references compiled to create this Critical Wildlife Habitat description.

Critical Wildlife Habitat #47

Year Revised: 2013

Year Established: 1994

Common Name: Triple Lakes Willow Carr

Critical Wildlife Habitat Criteria:

Vital SSC Habitat:

Wildlife Concentration:

Unique Biodiversity: X

Location (General): Located on the west side of the City of Boulder Watershed, south of Mt. Albion and less than a mile from the Continental Divide.

Designation Description: Willow carrs are important avian habitats comprising about 1% of the mountain landscape in Boulder County, having 2-3 times the breeding bird density as compared to adjacent habitats and supporting several avian and mammal species which are restricted to this habitat type.

Key Species:

SSC Known Occurrence: Avian and Small Mammal biodiversity

SSC Potential Occurrence (within habitat area):

Threats to Species or Habitat: Willow carrs are rare and sensitive habitats which are vulnerable to activities such as development, domestic animal grazing, and recreational activities such as OHV use, campgrounds or hiking trails placed inside the habitat, as well as construction of reservoirs, peat extraction and road construction. This area is perhaps the most difficult area to access in Boulder County.

Habitat Descriptions:

Habitat (General): Subalpine willow carr. Vegetation is dominated by willow and birch shrubs along with sedges and grasses. Willow carr is on north, west and south sides of Triple Lakes.

Southwest Regional Gap Analysis Project Landcover Types: Rocky Mountain Subalpine Mesic Spruce-Fir Forest and Woodland, Rocky Mountain Subalpine-Montane Riparian Shrubland, Rocky Mountain Alpine Bedrock and Scree, Rocky Mountain Subalpine Dry-Mesic Spruce-Fir Forest and Woodland, Open Water, Rocky Mountain Aspen Forest and Woodland, Rocky Mountain Dry Tundra, Rocky Mountain Alpine Fell-Field, Rocky Mountain Cliff and Canyon.

Size: 216 acres

Elevation: 10561-11599 feet (Mean = 10851 feet)

Life Zone: Subalpine

Ownership: (Private: Public: X)

Comments: City of Boulder

Current Resource Protection and Management Designations:

See the relevant city of Boulder management plan.

Information Sources and References: Contact Boulder County Parks and Open Space Resource Management staff for a list of information sources and references compiled to create this Critical Wildlife Habitat description.

Critical Wildlife Habitat #53

Year Revised: 2013

Year Established: 1994

Common Name: Woodland Flats Willow Carr

Critical Wildlife Habitat Criteria:

Vital SSC Habitat: X

Wildlife Concentration:

Unique Biodiversity: X

Location (General): Located inside the Indian Peaks Wilderness Area due south of Chittenden Mt, west of Eldora, along a portion of N Fork Middle Boulder Creek.

Designation Description: Willow carrs are important avian habitats comprising about 1% of the mountain landscape in Boulder County, having 2-3 times the breeding bird density as compared to adjacent habitats and supporting several avian and mammal species which are restricted to this habitat type. This site supports an active American Beaver colony and associated species.

Key Species:

SSC Known Occurrence: Avian and Small Mammal biodiversity; American Beaver (*Castor canadensis*)

SSC Potential Occurrence (within habitat area):

Threats to Species or Habitat: Willow carrs are rare and sensitive habitats which are vulnerable to activities such as development, domestic animal grazing, and recreational activities such as OHV use, campgrounds or hiking trails placed inside the habitat, as well as construction of reservoirs, peat extraction and road construction. American Beaver are vulnerable to trapping for sport or direct removal of dams or individuals. The creek is bounded on each side by the Devil's Thumb and Devil's Thumb Bypass Trails (USFS 902 & 902.1).

Habitat Descriptions:

Habitat (General): Subalpine willow carr. Vegetation is dominated by willow and birch shrubs along with sedges and grasses. Site contains active beaver colony and associated ponds. Jasper Creek flows through site.

Southwest Regional Gap Analysis Project Landcover Types: Rocky Mountain Lodgepole Pine Forest, Rocky Mountain Subalpine Mesic Spruce-Fir Forest and Woodland, Rocky Mountain Aspen Forest and Woodland, Rocky Mountain Subalpine-Montane Riparian Woodland, Rocky Mountain Subalpine-Montane Riparian Shrubland, Rocky Mountain Subalpine Dry-Mesic Spruce-Fir Forest and Woodland, Southern Rocky Mountain Montane-Subalpine Grassland.

Size: 203 acres

Elevation: 9612-9987 feet (Mean = 9717 feet)

Life Zone: Subalpine

Ownership: (Private: X Public: X)

Comments: USFS and private property.

Current Resource Protection and Management Designations:

See the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests Land and Resource Management Plan.

Information Sources and References: Contact Boulder County Parks and Open Space Resource Management staff for a list of information sources and references compiled to create this Critical Wildlife Habitat description.

Critical Wildlife Habitat #54

Year Revised: 2013

Year Established: 1994

Common Name: Buckeye Basin Willow Carr

Critical Wildlife Habitat Criteria:

Vital SSC Habitat: X

Wildlife Concentration:

Unique Biodiversity: X

Location (General): Located on the southern Boulder County boarder due south of the town of Eldora, and east of the Eldora Ski resort area.

Designation Description: Willow carrs are important avian habitats comprising about 1% of the mountain landscape in Boulder County, having 2-3 times the breeding bird density as compared to adjacent habitats and supporting several avian and mammal species which are restricted to this habitat type. This site supports an active American Beaver colony and associated species.

Key Species:

SSC Known Occurrence: Avian and Small Mammal biodiversity; American Beaver (*Castor canadensis*)

SSC Potential Occurrence (within habitat area):

Threats to Species or Habitat: Willow carrs are rare and sensitive habitats which are vulnerable to activities such as development, domestic animal grazing, and recreational activities such as OHV use, campgrounds or hiking trails placed inside the habitat, as well as construction of reservoirs, peat extraction and road construction. American Beaver are vulnerable to trapping for sport or direct removal of dams or individuals.

Habitat Descriptions:

Habitat (General): Subalpine willow carr. Vegetation is dominated by willow and birch shrubs along with reedgrass, sedges and grass. Site contains active beaver colony and associated ponds.

Southwest Regional Gap Analysis Project Landcover Types: Rocky Mountain Lodgepole Pine Forest, Rocky Mountain Aspen Forest and Woodland, Rocky Mountain Subalpine Mesic Spruce-Fir Forest and Woodland, Rocky Mountain Subalpine-Montane Riparian Woodland, Rocky Mountain Subalpine Dry-Mesic Spruce-Fir Forest and Woodland, Inter-Mountain West, Aspen-Mixed Conifer Forest and Woodland Complex, Rocky Mountain Cliff and Canyon.

Size: 126 acres

Elevation: 9171-9642 feet (Mean = 9388 feet)

Life Zone: Subalpine

Ownership: (Private: Public: X)

Comments: Private property.

Current Resource Protection and Management Designations:

Information Sources and References: Contact Boulder County Parks and Open Space Resource Management staff for a list of information sources and references compiled to create this Critical Wildlife Habitat description.

Critical Wildlife Habitat #55

Year Revised: 2013

Year Established: 1994

Common Name: Los Lagos Willow Carr

Critical Wildlife Habitat Criteria:

Vital SSC Habitat: X

Wildlife Concentration:

Unique Biodiversity: X

Location (General): Located near the southern Boulder County border south of the town of Nederland, due west of the Kelly Dahl Campground area off of SH119.

Designation Description: Willow carrs are important avian habitats comprising about 1% of the mountain landscape in Boulder County, having 2-3 times the breeding bird density as compared to adjacent habitats and supporting several avian and mammal species which are restricted to this habitat type. This site supports an active American Beaver colony and associated species.

Key Species:

SSC Known Occurrence: Avian and Small Mammal biodiversity; American Beaver (*Castor canadensis*)

SSC Potential Occurrence (within habitat area):

Threats to Species or Habitat: Willow carrs are rare and sensitive habitats which are vulnerable to activities such as development, domestic animal grazing, and recreational activities such as OHV use, campgrounds or hiking trails placed inside the habitat, as well as construction of reservoirs, peat extraction and road construction. American Beaver are vulnerable to trapping for sport or direct removal of dams or individuals. This area is bisected by Coal Creek Drive (CO72) and the Peak-to-Peak Highway (CO119).

Habitat Descriptions:

Habitat (General): Montane willow carr. Vegetation is dominated by willow, birch and alder shrubs along with sedges and grasses. Beaver Creek flows through site. Site contains active beaver colony and associated ponds.

Southwest Regional Gap Analysis Project Landcover Types: Rocky Mountain Lodgepole Pine Forest, Rocky Mountain Ponderosa Pine Woodland, Rocky Mountain Subalpine-Montane Riparian Shrubland, Rocky Mountain Montane Mesic Mixed Conifer Forest and Woodland, Agriculture, Rocky Mountain Montane Dry-Mesic Mixed Conifer Forest and Woodland, Inter-Mountain Basins Montane Sagebrush Steppe, Rocky Mountain Aspen Forest and Woodland, Rocky Mountain Subalpine-Montane Riparian Woodland

Size: 268 acres

Elevation: 8357-8682 feet (Mean = 8520 feet)

Life Zone: Montane

Ownership: (Private: X Public: X)

Comments: Private property, BCPOS CE and USFS.

Current Resource Protection and Management Designations:

See relevant BCPOS management plans. See the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests Land and Resource Management Plan.

Information Sources and References: Contact Boulder County Parks and Open Space Resource Management staff for a list of information sources and references compiled to create this Critical Wildlife Habitat description.

Critical Wildlife Habitat #56

Year Revised: 2013

Year Established: 1994

Common Name: Roaring Fork Willow Carr

Critical Wildlife Habitat Criteria:

Vital SSC Habitat: X

Wildlife Concentration:

Unique Biodiversity: X

Location (General): Located near the northern Boulder County border, NW of Meeker Park, near the intersection of Cabin Creek and SH7.

Designation Description: Willow carrs are important avian habitats comprising about 1% of the mountain landscape in Boulder County, having 2-3 times the breeding bird density as compared to adjacent habitats and supporting several avian and mammal species which are restricted to this habitat type. This site supports an active American Beaver colony and associated species.

Key Species:

SSC Known Occurrence: Avian and Small Mammal biodiversity; American Beaver (*Castor canadensis*)

SSC Potential Occurrence (within habitat area):

Threats to Species or Habitat: Willow carrs are rare and sensitive habitats which are vulnerable to activities such as development, domestic animal grazing, and recreational activities such as OHV use, campgrounds or hiking trails placed inside the habitat, as well as construction of reservoirs, peat extraction and road construction. American Beaver are vulnerable to trapping for sport or direct removal of dams or individuals. There are several homes and driveways in this area.

Habitat Descriptions:

Habitat (General): Montane willow carr. Vegetation is dominated by willow, birch and alder shrubs along with sedges and grasses. Roaring Fork Creek flows through the site. Site contains active beaver colony and associated ponds.

Southwest Regional Gap Analysis Project Landcover Types: Rocky Mountain Lodgepole Pine Forest, Rocky Mountain Ponderosa Pine Woodland, Rocky Mountain Subalpine-Montane Riparian Shrubland, Rocky Mountain Aspen Forest and Woodland.

Size: 192 acres

Elevation: 8643-9067 feet (Mean = 8857 feet)

Life Zone: Montane

Ownership: (Private: X Public: X)

Comments: NPS, BCPOS CE and private property.

Current Resource Protection and Management Designations:

See relevant BCPOS management plans. See the Rocky Mountain National Park management plan.

Information Sources and References: Contact Boulder County Parks and Open Space Resource Management staff for a list of information sources and references compiled to create this Critical Wildlife Habitat description.

Critical Wildlife Habitat #57

Year Revised: 2013

Year Established: 1994

Common Name: Peterson Lake

Critical Wildlife Habitat Criteria:

Vital SSC Habitat: X

Wildlife Concentration:

Unique Biodiversity:

Location (General): Located due south of the town of Eldora, directly adjacent to Spencer Mt and bordered on the northern edge by the Eldora Ski Rd.

Designation Description: Includes the sub-alpine lake and associated wetland. This site supports a freshwater mussel (Rocky Mountain Capshell), which is a USFS sensitive species and CPW species of special concern. Endemic to high mountain lakes, this site represents one of very few documented locations of collection.

Key Species:

SSC Known Occurrence: Rocky Mountain Capshell (*Acroloxus coloradensis*)

SSC Potential Occurrence (within habitat area):

Threats to Species or Habitat: Rocky Mountain Capshell are only known in Colorado from Boulder County (based on re-discovery in the county) and are vulnerable to commercial and recreational development surrounding aquatic habitats which decrease water quality; remaining habitats are known to be polluted and in areas of rapid urbanization and population growth; habitats on private land are not protected and inaccessible to population assessment; commercial drawdown of water levels for recreational use may cause local extirpation; salting of the Eldora Ski Road around the habitat may increase lake pollution and threat to the species.

Habitat Descriptions:

Habitat (General): Sub-alpine lake with wetland on west end, county road on north side and coniferous forest on south side.

Southwest Regional Gap Analysis Project Landcover Types: Rocky Mountain Aspen Forest and Woodland, Rocky Mountain Lodgepole Pine Forest, Southern Rocky Mountain Montane-Subalpine Grassland, Rocky Mountain Subalpine-Montane Riparian Woodland, Rocky Mountain Subalpine Dry-Mesic Spruce-Fir Forest and Woodland, Rocky Mountain Subalpine-Montane Riparian Shrubland.

Size: 99 acres

Elevation: 9164-9534 feet (Mean = 9290 feet)

Life Zone: Subalpine

Ownership: (Private: X Public: X)

Comments: Private property and USFS.

Current Resource Protection and Management Designations:

See the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests Land and Resource Management Plan.

Information Sources and References: Contact Boulder County Parks and Open Space Resource Management staff for a list of information sources and references compiled to create this Critical Wildlife Habitat description.

Critical Wildlife Habitat #58

Year Revised: 2013

Year Established: 1994

Common Name: Hunters Creek

Critical Wildlife Habitat Criteria:

Vital SSC Habitat: X

Wildlife Concentration:

Unique Biodiversity:

Location (General): Located inside Rocky Mountain National Park, SW of Meeker Park, and west of Lookout Mt. Habitat occurs over stretch of Hunters Creek above its confluence with N St. Vrain Creek.

Designation Description: Sub-alpine stream supporting a protected segment of native Greenback Cutthroat Trout habitat inside Rocky Mountain National Park. The configuration of the creek, including an obstruction in the downstream segment, allows this habitat to support a native population of trout.

Key Species:

SSC Known Occurrence: Greenback Cutthroat Trout (*Oncorhynchus clarki*)

SSC Potential Occurrence (within habitat area):

Threats to Species or Habitat: Greenback Cutthroat Trout are vulnerable to hybridization with and predation by other native and non-native salmonids; degradation of stream habitat quality by logging, livestock over-grazing, water diversions, organic and inorganic water pollution and high-intensity recreational use of streams. Due to recent evidence of hybridization with other salmonids, this species of trout is currently under review by the US Fish and Wildlife Service for re-assessment of its listing as a Threatened species under the Endangered Species Act. The Sandbeach Lake Trail parallels Hunter's Creek and is also subject to catch-and-release fishing pressure.

Habitat Descriptions:

Habitat (General): Sub-alpine stream.

Southwest Regional Gap Analysis Project Landcover Types: Rocky Mountain Lodgepole Pine Forest, Rocky Mountain Subalpine Mesic Spruce-Fir Forest and Woodland, Rocky Mountain Subalpine Dry-Mesic Spruce-Fir Forest and Woodland.

Size: 178 acres

Elevation: 9418-10229 feet (Mean = 9826 feet)

Life Zone: Subalpine

Ownership: (Private: Public: X)

Comments: NPS.

Current Resource Protection and Management Designations:

See the Rocky Mountain National Park management plan.

Information Sources and References: Contact Boulder County Parks and Open Space Resource Management staff for a list of information sources and references compiled to create this Critical Wildlife Habitat description.

Critical Wildlife Habitat #59

Year Revised: New
Year Established: 2013

Common Name: Geer Canyon

Critical Wildlife Habitat Criteria:

Vital SSC Habitat: ☒

Wildlife Concentration:

Unique Biodiversity:

Location (General): Located inside Heil Valley Ranch Open Space, along the north side of the terminus of Geer Canyon Drive.

Designation Description: Cliff-nesting habitat for Prairie Falcon and Ponderosa pine woodland habitat supporting Fringed Myotis maternity roosts and foraging habitat.

Key Species:

SSC Known Occurrence: Prairie Falcon (*Falco mexicanus*); Fringed Myotis (*Myotis thysanodes*, maternity and foraging habitat); Western Small-footed Myotis (*Myotis ciliolabrum*, maternity habitat)

SSC Potential Occurrence (within habitat area): American Badger, Big Brown Bat, Hoary Bat, Silver-haired Bat, Townsend's Big-eared Bat, Prairie Tiger Beetle, Lazuli Bunting, Bushtit, Colorado Chipmunk, Uinta Chipmunk, White-winged Crossbill, Hudsonian Emerald Dragonfly, Mottled Duskywing, Golden Eagle, Moss's Elf, American Emerald, Peregrine Falcon, Northern Flicker, Gray Fox, Regal Fritillary, Chorus Frog, Northern Pocket Gopher, Northern Goshawk, Northern Harrier, White-tailed Jackrabbit, Western Scrub Jay, River Jewelwing, American Marten, Northern Rock Mouse, Fringed Myotis, Little Brown Myotis, Long-eared Myotis, Long-legged Myotis, Western Small-footed Myotis, Flammulated Owl, Long-eared Owl, Northern Pygmy Owl, Band-tailed Pigeon, North American Porcupine, Ringtail, Williamson's Sapsucker, American Water Shrew, Dwarf Shrew, Merriam's Shrew, Pine Siskin, Snow's Skipper, Two-banded Checkered Skipper, Two-spotted Skipper, Garter Snake, Milk Snake, Fox Sparrow, Plumbeous Vireo, Heather Vole, Meadow Vole, Virginia's Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, Red-headed Woodpecker, Rock Wren

Threats to Species or Habitat: Prairie Falcon are vulnerable to human encroachment near their nests sites during the breeding season, such as from climbing; disturbances can result in nest abandonment and negatively impact recruitment rates and population trends. Fringed Myotis and Western Small-footed Myotis are vulnerable to loss or disturbance of roosting and breeding habitat by habitat fragmentation; increased recreational activities and development may increase the potential of human-transmitted White-Nosed Syndrome into winter colonies; bats accumulate toxins if found in prey near habitat

Habitat Descriptions:

Habitat (General): Cliff faces and Ponderosa pine woodland.

Southwest Regional Gap Analysis Project Landcover Types: Rocky Mountain Ponderosa Pine Woodland, Rocky Mountain Lower Montane-Foothill Shrubland, Western Great Plains Foothill and Piedmont Grassland, Agriculture.

Size: 108 acres

Elevation: 5906-6683 feet (Mean = 6230 feet)

Life Zone: Lower Montane

Ownership: (Private: Public: ☒)

Comments: BCPOS Open Space.

Current Resource Protection and Management Designations:

See relevant BCPOS management plans.

Information Sources and References: Contact Boulder County Parks and Open Space Resource Management staff for a list of information sources and references compiled to create this Critical Wildlife Habitat description.

Critical Wildlife Habitat #60

Year Revised: New
Year Established: 2013

Common Name: Caribou Ranch Montane Parkland

Critical Wildlife Habitat Criteria:

Vital SSC Habitat: X
Wildlife Concentration: X
Unique Biodiversity: X

Location (General): Located NW of Nederland, in a shape outlined generally as west of SH72, south of Rainbow Lake Rd., and north of Caribou Rd. The western boundary nears the Indian Peaks Wilderness Area.

Designation Description: One of the highest biodiversity regions in the county montane life zone. Includes Caribou willow carr, montane meadows, Delonde, Como and other creeks and Mud Lake. Vital habitat for several rare species of special concern, such as bats and native trout, and represents a critical movement and concentration area for the Winiger Ridge elk herd. This area includes and supercedes the former CWH 51 (Delonde Creek Willow Carr) and CWH52 (Caribou Ranch Willow Carr).

Key Species:

SSC Known Occurrence: Elk (*Cervus elaphus*) calving, winter and transitional range; Bat maternity roosts and hibernaculum (multiple species); American Beaver (*Castor canadensis*); White-tailed Ptarmigan (*Lagopus leucura*); Boreal Owl (*Aegolius funereus*); White-winged Crossbill (*Loxia leucoptera*); Band-tailed Pigeon (*Patagioenas fasciata*); Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*); Northern Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*); Pine Siskin (*Spinus pinus*); Rocky Mountain Arctic Jutta (*Oeneis jutta*); Avian and Small Mammal biodiversity

SSC Potential Occurrence (within habitat area): American Badger, Big Brown Bat, Hoary Bat, Silver-haired Bat, Townsend's Big-eared Bat, Western Bumblebee, American Bittern, Lazuli Bunting, Bushtit, Uinta Chipmunk, Lake Darner, American Dipper, Hudsonian Emerald Dragonfly, Ring-necked Duck, Golden Eagle, Moss's Elf, American Emerald, Peregrine Falcon, Northern Flicker, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Willow Flycatcher, Regal Fritillary, Chorus Frog, Barrow's Goldeneye, Northern Pocket Gopher, Eared Grebe, Northern Harrier, Great Blue Heron, White-tailed Jackrabbit, River Jewelwing, Rocky Mountain Arctic Jutta, Belted Kingfisher, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Canada Lynx, American Marten, Little Brown Myotis, Long-legged Myotis, River Otter, Flammulated Owl, Long-eared Owl, Northern Pygmy Owl, North American Porcupine, Tiger Salamander, Williamson's Sapsucker, American Water Shrew, Dwarf Shrew, Merriam's Shrew, Snow's Skipper, Two-banded Checkered Skipper, Two-spotted Skipper, Milk Snake, Brewer's Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Veery, Plumbeous Vireo, Heather Vole, Wilson's Warbler, American Three-toed Woodpecker, Lewis's Woodpecker, Rock Wren.

Threats to Species or Habitat: Willow carrs are rare and sensitive habitats which are vulnerable to activities such as development, domestic animal grazing, and recreational activities such as OHV use, campgrounds or hiking trails placed inside the habitat, as well as construction of reservoirs, peat extraction and road construction. Elk are sensitive to human development and encroachment as well as habitat degradation. Bats are vulnerable to loss or disturbance of roosting and breeding habitat by habitat fragmentation; increased recreational activities and development may increase the potential of human-transmitted White-Nosed Syndrome into winter colonies; bats accumulate toxins if found in prey near habitat. American Beaver are vulnerable to trapping for sport or direct removal of dams or individuals. White-tailed Ptarmigan are vulnerable forestry and recreational activities which reduce breeding and wintering habitat, particularly in willow carr and road construction along stream corridors; anticipated effects of global climate change may increase this species vulnerabilities. Boreal owl are sensitive to forestry and recreational activities which reduce mature and dead trees used for nesting sites. White-winged Crossbill are vulnerable to forestry and recreational activities which may impact coniferous forest habitat used for breeding and foraging, and anticipated effects of global climate change may increase this species vulnerabilities. Band-tailed Pigeon are vulnerable to overhunting and practices which increase habitat fragmentation. Primary threats to Northern Goshawk populations are alteration of its preferred habitat by forestry management practices including modification or destruction of nesting. Additionally, increased fragmentation of habitat by roads, trails and development degrades goshawk habitat value; susceptible to collection by falconers. Northern Harrier is especially vulnerable due to nesting habitat

declines and foraging habitat in and around wetlands due to land conversion and recreational use; this is a candidate for the most imperiled avian species in Boulder County. Pine Siskin are vulnerable to forestry or recreational practices which fragment habitat which may increase predation or parasitism of adults or young. The Rocky Mountain Arctic Jutta is dependent on open lodgepole pine stands and any alteration of the vegetational composition of these habitats could result in local extirpation. Avian and small mammal biodiversity is sensitive to fragmentation, loss of structural diversity or reduced habitat productivity. This large area contains portions of the Peak-to-Peak Highway (CO72) as well as the entire BCPOS trail system and trailheads of the Caribou Ranch and Mud Lake open space properties.

Habitat Descriptions:

Habitat (General): Montane willow carr vegetation is dominated by willow, birch and alder shrubs along with sedges and grasses. Montane meadows, Lodgepole pine forest and Ponderosa Pine woodland, Spruce-Fir Forest and woodlands. North Boulder, Delonde and Como Creeks flow through the site with associated riparian shrubland. Several montane lakes. Site contains active beaver colony and associated ponds.

Southwest Regional Gap Analysis Project Landcover Types: Rocky Mountain Lodgepole Pine Forest, Rocky Mountain Ponderosa Pine Woodland, Rocky Mountain Subalpine Mesic Spruce-Fir Forest and Woodland, Rocky Mountain Subalpine-Montane Riparian Shrubland, Agriculture, Rocky Mountain Aspen Forest and Woodland, Rocky Mountain Montane Mesic Mixed Conifer Forest and Woodland, Rocky Mountain Subalpine-Montane Riparian Woodland, Rocky Mountain Alpine-Montane Wet Meadow, Inter-Mountain Basins Montane Sagebrush Steppe, Rocky Mountain Montane Dry-Mesic Mixed Conifer Forest and Woodland, Rocky Mountain Subalpine Dry-Mesic Spruce-Fir Forest and Woodland, Southern Rocky Mountain Montane-Subalpine Grassland, Inter-Mountain West Aspen-Mixed Conifer Forest and Woodland Complex, Rocky Mountain Subalpine Mesic Meadow.

Size: 5138 acres

Elevation: 8055-10255 feet (Mean = 8959 feet)

Life Zone: subalpine, upper montane

Ownership: (Private: ☒ Public: ☒)

Comments: BCPOS Open Space and CE, USFS, City of Boulder, town of Nederland and private property.

Current Resource Protection and Management Designations:

See relevant BCPOS and city of Boulder management plans. See the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests Land and Resource Management Plan.

Information Sources and References: Contact Boulder County Parks and Open Space Resource Management staff for a list of information sources and references compiled to create this Critical Wildlife Habitat description.

Critical Wildlife Habitat #61

Year Revised: New
Year Established: 2013

Common Name: Barker Reservoir

Critical Wildlife Habitat Criteria:

Vital SSC Habitat: X

Wildlife Concentration:

Unique Biodiversity:

Location (General): Located adjacent to the town of Nederland.

Designation Description: One of three known locations of the Lake Chub in the county, which was considered extirpated from Colorado in 1904 until re-discovery in Boulder County in 1989. The re-discovery team potentially attributed this rediscovery as a released specimen from an upstream reservoir, such type as Barker Reservoir represents. Thus, this reservoir and Beaver reservoir may be contributing to the survivorship of Lake Chub in the county, and represent a source of natural repopulation of Lake Chub into downstream creeks if stream conditions allow or are improved.

Key Species:

SSC Known Occurrence: Lake Chub (*Couesius plumbeus*)

SSC Potential Occurrence (within habitat area):

Threats to Species or Habitat: Lake Chub are sensitive to direct mortality or loss of breeding habitat by dewatering or dredging of rocky shore and shoal habitat along lake margins, or blockage of open tributary streams used for breeding in early spring; introduction of invasive or exotic species such as crayfish which may consume eggs or fry; excessive stocking of predatory game fish which may deplete the adult population; contamination of water with organic waste which leads to reduced oxygen or water quality. The Town of Nederland wastewater treatment plant is immediately adjacent to the Reservoir.

Habitat Descriptions:

Habitat (General): High elevation, montane reservoir and small, intermittent tributaries. North Beaver Creek and Middle Boulder Creek flow through the site.

Southwest Regional Gap Analysis Project Landcover Types: Rocky Mountain Ponderosa Pine Woodland, Rocky Mountain Montane Mesic Mixed Conifer Forest and Woodland, Rocky Mountain Lodgepole Pine Forest, Southern Rocky Mountain Montane-Subalpine Grassland, Rocky Mountain Montane Dry-Mesic Mixed Conifer Forest and Woodland, Inter-Mountain Basins, Montane Sagebrush Steppe, Inter-Mountain Basins Big Sagebrush Shrubland, Rocky Mountain Subalpine-Montane Riparian Shrubland, Rocky Mountain Lower Montane-Foothill Shrubland, Agriculture, Rocky Mountain Cliff and Canyon.

Size: 415 acres

Elevation: 8031-8409 feet (Mean = 8219 feet)

Life Zone: Montane

Ownership: (Private: X Public: X)

Comments: City of Boulder, city of Nederland and BCPOS Open Space.

Current Resource Protection and Management Designations:

See relevant BCPOS and city of Boulder management plans.

Information Sources and References: Contact Boulder County Parks and Open Space Resource Management staff for a list of information sources and references compiled to create this Critical Wildlife Habitat description.

Critical Wildlife Habitat #62

Year Revised: New
Year Established: 2013

Common Name: Beaver Reservoir

Critical Wildlife Habitat Criteria:

Vital SSC Habitat: ☒

Wildlife Concentration:

Unique Biodiversity:

Location (General): Located west of the city of Jamestown, south of the Peaceful Valley Campground area, at the terminus of the Beaver Reservoir Rd (CR96).

Designation Description: One of three known locations of the Lake Chub in the county, which was considered extirpated from Colorado in 1904 until re-discovery in Boulder County in 1989. The re-discovery team potentially attributed this rediscovery as a released specimen from an upstream reservoir, such type as Beaver Reservoir represents. Thus, this reservoir and Barker reservoir may be contributing to the survivorship of Lake Chub in the county, and represent a source of natural repopulation of Lake Chub into downstream creeks if stream conditions allow or are improved. This site also supports a county River Otter concentration and a functional American Beaver colony and associated species.

Key Species:

SSC Known Occurrence: Lake Chub (*Coesius plumbeus*); River Otter (*Lontra canadensis*) core habitat; American Beaver (*Castor canadensis*)

SSC Potential Occurrence (within habitat area):

Threats to Species or Habitat: Lake Chub are sensitive to direct mortality or loss of breeding habitat by dewatering or dredging of rocky shore and shoal habitat along lake margins, or blockage of open tributary streams used for breeding in early spring; introduction of invasive or exotic species such as crayfish which may consume eggs or fry; excessive stocking of predatory game fish which may deplete the adult population; contamination of water with organic waste which leads to reduced oxygen or water quality. River Otter are sensitive to streamside and riparian habitat modification, water quality degradation leading to loss of prey, and direct trapping. American Beaver are vulnerable to trapping for sport or direct removal of dams or individuals.

Habitat Descriptions:

Habitat (General): High elevation, sub-alpine reservoir. Beaver Creek flows through site.

Southwest Regional Gap Analysis Project Landcover Types: Rocky Mountain Lodgepole Pine Forest, Rocky Mountain Subalpine Dry-Mesic Spruce-Fir Forest and Woodland, Rocky Mountain Subalpine-Montane Riparian Shrubland, Rocky Mountain Subalpine-Montane Riparian Woodland, Rocky Mountain Aspen Forest and Woodland, Rocky Mountain Subalpine Mesic Spruce-Fir Forest and Woodland, Rocky Mountain Ponderosa Pine Woodland, Southern Rocky Mountain Montane-Subalpine Grassland, Rocky Mountain Cliff and Canyon, Rocky Mountain Montane Dry-Mesic Mixed Conifer Forest and Woodland, Recently Burned.

Size: 265 acres

Elevation: 9105-9346 feet (Mean = 9185 feet)

Life Zone: Montane

Ownership: (Private: ☒ Public: ☒)

Comments: Private property and USFS.

Current Resource Protection and Management Designations:

See the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests Land and Resource Management Plan.

Information Sources and References: Contact Boulder County Parks and Open Space Resource Management staff for a list of information sources and references compiled to create this Critical Wildlife Habitat description.

Critical Wildlife Habitat #63

Year Revised: New
Year Established: 2013

Common Name: Goose Pond

Critical Wildlife Habitat Criteria:

Vital SSC Habitat: ☒

Wildlife Concentration:

Unique Biodiversity:

Location (General): Located at the intersection of US287 and the Northwest Parkway inside the Maple Grove subdivision in the town of Lafayette. North of Rock Creek Farm.

Designation Description: Ponds and associated wetlands and drainages which serve as vital breeding habitat for the Northern Leopard Frog. The adjacent grass habitats are necessary for upland terrestrial foraging.

Key Species:

SSC Known Occurrence: Northern Leopard Frog (*Rana pipiens*)

SSC Potential Occurrence (within habitat area): American Avocet, Brazilian Free-tailed Bat, Eastern Red Bat, Chorus Frog, Black-crowned Night Heron, Great Blue Heron, Horned Lark, Northern Grasshopper Mouse, Olive-back Pocket Mouse, Plains Harvest Mouse, Plains Pocket Mouse, Little Brown Myotis, Ord's Kangaroo Rat, Tiger Salamander, Dwarf Shrew, Least Shrew, Arogos Skipper, Cross-line Skipper, Dusted Skipper, Ottoe Skipper, Rhesus Skipper, Simius Roadside Skipper, Common Garter Snake, Lined Snake, Milk Snake

Threats to Species or Habitat: Northern Leopard Frog are vulnerable to destruction of wetland habitats, the invasion of bullfrogs due to habitat disturbance and subsequent predation or mortality from disease. This area is subject to both residential and agricultural permanent presence.

Habitat Descriptions:

Habitat (General): Ponds, associated wetlands and drainages, as well adjacent agricultural areas.

Southwest Regional Gap Analysis Project Landcover Types: Agriculture, Developed, Medium - High Intensity, Invasive Perennial Grassland, Western Great Plains Riparian Woodland and Shrubland.

Size: 17 acres

Elevation: 5212-5227 feet (Mean = 5217 feet)

Life Zone: Plains

Ownership: (Private: ☒ Public: ☒)

Comments: City of Lafayette and private property.

Current Resource Protection and Management Designations:

Information Sources and References: Contact Boulder County Parks and Open Space Resource Management staff for a list of information sources and references compiled to create this Critical Wildlife Habitat description.

Critical Wildlife Habitat #64

Year Revised: New
Year Established: 2013

Common Name: Southern Grasslands

Critical Wildlife Habitat Criteria:

Vital SSC Habitat: X

Wildlife Concentration: X

Unique Biodiversity:

Location (General): Located west of the town of Superior, east of SH93, north of SH128, and covers a section of Coal Creek.

Designation Description: The largest, relatively contiguous block of mixed grass prairie and associated habitats in the county supporting a wide variety of vital habitats for numerous species of concern, including the Northern Leopard Frog, Burrowing Owl, and foraging or breeding raptors. The area is bisected by the Coal Creek riparian corridor which supports a wide variety of riparian and creek-associated species of concern. Resident elk calving grounds adjacent to Coal Creek.

Key Species:

SSC Known Occurrence: Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*); Northern Leopard Frog (*Rana pipiens*); Chorus Frog (*Pseudacris triseriata*); Burrowing Owl (*Athene cunicularia*); Black Tailed Prairie Dog (*Cynomys ludovicianus*); Regal Fritillary (*Speyeria idalia*); Grasshopper Sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum*); American Badger (*Taxidea taxus*); Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*); Ferruginous Hawk (*Buteo regalis*); Tiger Salamander (*Ambystoma tigrinum*); American Badger (*Taxidea taxus*); Short-horned lizard (*Phrynosoma hernandesi*)

SSC Potential Occurrence (within habitat area): Big Brown Bat, Brazilian Free-tailed Bat, Tricolored Bat, Plains Tiger Beetle, Colorado Blue, Lazuli Bunting, Colorado Chipmunk, Mottled Duskywing, Northern Flicker, Regal Fritillary, Northern Pocket Gopher, Rough-legged Hawk, White-tailed Jackrabbit, Belted Kingfish, Horned Lark, Northern Mockingbird, Northern Grasshopper Mouse, Olive-back Pocket Mouse, Plains Harvest Mouse, Plains Pocket Mouse, Silky Pocket Mouse, Western Small-footed Myotis, Short-eared Owl, Mountain Plover, Ord's Kangaroo Rat, Dwarf Shrew, Least Shrew, Merriam's Shrew, Loggerhead Shrike, Arogos Skipper, Cross-line Skipper, Dusted Skipper, Ottoe Skipper, Rhesus Skipper, Simius Roadside Skipper, Lined Snake, Milk Snake, Cassin's Sparrow, Thirteen-lined Ground Squirrel, Meadow Vole, Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse.

Threats to Species or Habitat: Golden Eagle are vulnerable to human encroachment near their nests sites during the breeding season, such as from climbing; disturbances can result in nest abandonment and negatively impact recruitment rates and population trends. Bald Eagle are vulnerable to nest site encroachment and destruction of nesting trees, contamination of prey from pesticides and loss of prey base due to large-scale pest control programs. Northern Leopard Frog are vulnerable to destruction of wetland habitats, the invasion of bullfrogs due to habitat disturbance and subsequent predation or mortality from disease. Chorus Frog are sensitive to agricultural practices which use pesticides, herbicides or fertilizers in the habitat, and vulnerable to loss of aquatic habitat quality. Burrowing Owl nesting is sensitive to the loss of nesting sites due to prairie dog declines, disturbance due to urbanization or recreational use of nesting areas, and pesticide use to control pest species which are then consumed by the owls. Black Tailed Prairie Dogs are vulnerable to direct population declines from large-scale pest control programs and outbreaks of sylvatic plague, as well as conversion of prairie habitat to agriculture, urban development or recreational uses. Regal Fritillary are sensitive to conversion of tallgrass prairie to hayfields or heavily grazed lands, certain reforestation practices, gypsy moth spraying, and certain controlled burn practices (avoid burning too frequently). Grasshopper Sparrow is vulnerable to conversion of pastureland to cropland, mowing practices that are unprotective of nesting areas, and urban development leading to predation by domestic animals. American Badger are sensitive to conversion of grasslands to agriculture, urbanization leading to road development and automobile mortality. Ferruginous Hawk are vulnerable to conversion of prairie grassland to cropland and urban development, as well as impacts from increased recreational use; loss of prairie dog colonies due to pest control programs or impact of widespread sylvatic plague mortality. Tiger Salamander are vulnerable to stocking or invasion of fish into previously fishless waterbodies; modification or destruction of wetland, seasonal or semipermanent aquatic habitats; conversion of terrestrial uplands adjacent to wetlands, which serve as burrowing substrate for juveniles, into urban development or agriculture production;

endocrine and developmental disruption due to agricultural pesticides. American Badger are sensitive to conversion of grasslands to agriculture, urbanization leading to road development and automobile mortality. Short Horned Lizard are sensitive to the loss of native ant species which are the preferred prey; collection by hobbyists; urbanization and conversion of native shrubland to dense grasses. This area contains multiple trails and trailhead areas that access city and county open space, and receives heavy recreation pressure.

Habitat Descriptions:

Habitat (General): Mixedgrass prairie. Coal Creek and associated riparian corridor flows through site. Several ponds and intermittent streams.

Southwest Regional Gap Analysis Project Landcover Types: Western Great Plains Foothill and Piedmont Grassland, Invasive Perennial Grassland, Western Great Plains Shortgrass Prairie, Western Great Plains Riparian Woodland and Shrubland, Agriculture, Western Great Plains Cliff and Outcrop, Inter-Mountain Basins Mixed Salt Desert Scrub.

Size: 2729 acres

Elevation: 5553-5965 feet (Mean = 5758 feet)

Life Zone:

Ownership: (Private: ☒ Public: ☒)

Comments: City of Boulder, BCPOS Open Space and CE and private property.

Current Resource Protection and Management Designations:

See relevant BCPOS and city of Boulder management plans. Most of the City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks properties are designated as Habitat Conservation Areas, requiring a permit for off-trail travel. Large area surrounding Coal Creek is closed to all access from Nov 1- July 31 each year to protect nesting bald eagles. A smaller area is closed from March 15- Oct 15 each year to protect nesting burrowing owls and an area on the western side is closed from May 1- July 31 each year to off-trail travel to protect ground nesting grassland birds. The Coal Creek riparian area is fenced to exclude grazing and is closed to all public access. The area on City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks properties is designated a Grassland Preserve related to management of Black-tailed Prairie Dogs.

Information Sources and References: Contact Boulder County Parks and Open Space Resource Management staff for a list of information sources and references compiled to create this Critical Wildlife Habitat description.

Critical Wildlife Habitat #65

Year Revised: New
Year Established: 2013

Common Name: Kenosha Wetlands

Critical Wildlife Habitat Criteria:

Vital SSC Habitat:

Wildlife Concentration:

Unique Biodiversity: X

Location (General): Located near the eastern Boulder County border, near the intersection of Kenosha Rd. and East County Line Rd. North of the town of Erie.

Designation Description: Unique region of expansive man-made wetlands in eastern County. Contains vital habitat for several species of special concern, particularly waterfowl. Northern Harrier and many wading and wetland-associated species of special concern forage in the area.

Key Species:

SSC Known Occurrence: Yellow-headed Black Bird (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*); American Avocet (*Recurvirostra americana*); American Bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*); Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*); Black-Crowned Night Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*); Double-crested Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus*); Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*); Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*); Northern Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*); Ring-Necked Duck (*Aythya collaris*); Wood Duck (*Aix sponsa*); Avian biodiversity.

SSC Potential Occurrence (within habitat area): American Avocet, American Bittern, Least Bittern, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Colorado Blue, Lark Bunting, Double-crested Cormorant, Iowa Darter, Johnny Darter, Wood Duck, Mottled Duskywing, Bald Eagle, Great Egret, Prairie Falcon, Giant Floater, Regal Fritillary, Chorus Frog, Northern Leopard Frog, Northern Pocket Gopher, Eastern Grebe, Northern Harrier, Ferruginous Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, Black-crowned Night Heron, Great Blue Heron, Belted Kingfisher, Brassy Minnow, River Otter, Cylindrical Papershell, Banded Phrysa, Tiger Salamander, Bigmouth Shiner, Common Shiner, Least Shrew, Merriam's Shrew, Arogos Skipper, Cross-line Skipper, Dusted Skipper, Ottoe Skipper, Rhesus Skipper, Simius Roadside Skipper, Common Garter Snake, Lined Snake, Milk Snake, Stonecat, Plain's Topminnow, Spiny Softshell Turtle, Meadow Vole

Threats to Species or Habitat: Yellow-headed Blackbird are vulnerable to loss of nesting and foraging habitat in emergent vegetation of wetlands and lakesides due to water management drawdowns and drought conditions. American Avocet are sensitive to loss of habitat created by vernal flooding regimes as a result of agricultural water diversions of in-stream flows and urban flood control projects. Golden Eagle are vulnerable to human encroachment near their nests sites during the breeding season, such as from climbing; disturbances can result in nest abandonment and negatively impact recruitment rates and population trends. Bald Eagle are vulnerable to nest site encroachment and destruction of nesting trees, contamination of prey from pesticides and loss of prey base due to large-scale pest control programs. American Bittern suffer from loss of marsh and wetland foraging and breeding habitats due to habitat conversion or recreational use. Black-crowned Night Herons are vulnerable to human disturbance at nesting colonies which tend to be grouped in restricted areas, and as top predators they are sensitive to the accumulation of toxins in their habitat which can be found in their prey. Double-crested Cormorant are vulnerable to loss of nesting habitat adjacent to aquatic habitats, and human encroachment due to concentration into breeding colonies. Great Blue Heron are sensitive to the loss of nest site trees or excessive site encroachment, and survival of adults and young depend on prey from nearby high quality aquatic habitats producing fish and amphibians. Northern Harrier is especially vulnerable due to nesting habitat declines and foraging habitat in and around wetlands due to land conversion and recreational use; this is a candidate for the most imperiled avian species in Boulder County. Ring-necked Duck are vulnerable to development or degradation of wetland habitat on their breeding grounds, wintering grounds, and migration routes; particularly vulnerable to consuming spent lead-shot found on the wetland bottoms where they feed. Wood Ducks are sensitive to cutting of dead and decaying trees used as nesting sites, and the loss of wetlands to development and agriculture. Avian biodiversity is sensitive to fragmentation, loss of structural diversity or reduced habitat productivity. This area is subject to ongoing oil and gas maintenance and possible future development.

Habitat Descriptions:

Habitat (General): Rare, large, man-made wetland in eastern County, including riparian and shoreline habitats.

Southwest Regional Gap Analysis Project Landcover Types: Western Great Plains Riparian Woodland and Shrubland.

Size: 51 acres

Elevation: 4963-4972 feet (Mean = 4969 feet)

Life Zone: Plains

Ownership: (Private: Public: X)

Comments: BCPOS Open Space.

Current Resource Protection and Management Designations:

See relevant BCPOS management plans.

Information Sources and References: Contact Boulder County Parks and Open Space Resource Management staff for a list of information sources and references compiled to create this Critical Wildlife Habitat description.

Critical Wildlife Habitat #66

Year Revised: New
Year Established: 2013

Common Name: Two Creeks

Critical Wildlife Habitat Criteria:

Vital SSC Habitat: X

Wildlife Concentration:

Unique Biodiversity:

Location (General): Located on the eastern Boulder County border, south of the intersection of SH7 and the County Line. East side of the town of Lafayette.

Designation Description: Area of long-term and established Burrowing Owl nesting within a Black Tailed Prairie Dog Grassland Complex.

Key Species:

SSC Known Occurrence: Burrowing Owl (*Athene cunicularia*); Black Tailed Prairie Dog (*Cynomys ludovicianus*)

SSC Potential Occurrence (within habitat area): American Badger, Big Brown Bat, Brazilian Free-tailed Bat, Tricolored Bat, Colorado Blue, Colorado Chipmunk, Golden Eagle, Regal Fritillary, Northern Pocket Gopher, Ferruginous Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, Horned Lark, Northern Mockingbird, Northern Grasshopper Mouse, Olive-back Pocket Mouse, Plains Harvest Mouse, Plains Pocket Mouse, Silky Pocket Mouse, Western Small-footed Myotis, Short-eared Owl, Ord's Kangaroo Rat, Dwarf Shrew, Least Shrew, Merriam's Shrew, Loggerhead Shrike, Arogos Skipper, Cross-line Skipper, Dusted Skipper, Ottoe Skipper, Rhesus Skipper, Simius Roadside Skipper, Lined Snake, Milk Snake, Grasshopper Sparrow, Thirteen-lined Ground Squirrel

Threats to Species or Habitat: Burrowing Owl nesting is sensitive to the loss of nesting sites due to prairie dog declines, disturbance due to urbanization or recreational use of nesting areas, and pesticide use to control pest species which are then consumed by the owls. Black Tailed Prairie Dogs are vulnerable to direct population declines from large-scale pest control programs and outbreaks of sylvatic plague, as well as conversion of prairie habitat to agriculture, urban development or recreational uses. The Two Creeks Regional Trail bisects this area. The area is subject to ongoing maintenance and possible future oil and gas development.

Habitat Descriptions:

Habitat (General): Shortgrass and mixed grass prairie habitat and several intermittent streams.

Southwest Regional Gap Analysis Project Landcover Types: Agriculture, Invasive Perennial Grassland, Western Great Plains Shortgrass Prairie.

Size: 206 acres

Elevation: 5121-5238 feet (Mean = 5171 feet)

Life Zone: Plains

Ownership: (Private: Public: X)

Comments: BCPOS Open Space and city of Lafayette.

Current Resource Protection and Management Designations:

See relevant city of Boulder management plans.

Information Sources and References: Contact Boulder County Parks and Open Space Resource Management staff for a list of information sources and references compiled to create this Critical Wildlife Habitat description.

Critical Wildlife Habitat #67

Year Revised: New
Year Established: 2013

Common Name: Cony Creek

Critical Wildlife Habitat Criteria:

Vital SSC Habitat: ☒

Wildlife Concentration:

Unique Biodiversity:

Location (General): Located inside Rocky Mountain National Park, due west of the town of Allenspark. SE of Copeland Mt. and within 1 mile of the Continental Divide.

Designation Description: Area includes Cony Creek, Hutcheson Lakes, Pear Reservoir and Finch Lake within Rocky Mountain National Park. Sub-alpine stream and lakes supporting a protected segment of native Greenback Cutthroat Trout habitat inside Rocky Mountain National Park. This site also supports a freshwater mussel (Rocky Mountain Capshell), which is a USFS sensitive species and CPW species of special concern. Endemic to high mountain lakes, this site represents one of very few documented locations of collection.

Key Species:

SSC Known Occurrence: Greenback Cutthroat Trout (*Oncorhynchus clarki*); Rocky Mountain Capshell (*Acroloxus coloradensis*)

SSC Potential Occurrence (within habitat area):

Threats to Species or Habitat: Greenback Cutthroat Trout are vulnerable to hybridization with and predation by other native and non-native salmonids; degradation of stream habitat quality by logging, livestock over-grazing, water diversions, organic and inorganic water pollution and high-intensity recreational use of streams. Due to recent evidence of hybridization with other salmonids, this species of trout is currently under review by the US Fish and Wildlife Service for re-assessment of its listing as a Threatened species under the Endangered Species Act. Rocky Mountain Capshell are only known in Colorado from Boulder County (based on re-discovery in the county) and are vulnerable to commercial and recreational development surrounding aquatic habitats which decrease water quality; remaining habitats are known to be polluted and in areas of rapid urbanization and population growth; habitats on private land are not protected and inaccessible to population assessment; commercial drawdown of water levels for recreational use may cause local extirpation; salting of roads around the habitat may increase lake pollution and threat to the species. Portions of Cony Creek, Pear Lake, and Finch Lake are adjacent to the Pear Lake Trail.

Habitat Descriptions:

Habitat (General): Alpine Cony Creek, and associated lakes and reservoirs.

Southwest Regional Gap Analysis Project Landcover Types: Rocky Mountain Subalpine Dry-Mesic Spruce-Fir Forest and Woodland, Rocky Mountain Subalpine Mesic Spruce-Fir Forest and Woodland, Rocky Mountain Alpine Bedrock and Scree, Rocky Mountain Subalpine-Montane Riparian Shrubland, Rocky Mountain Lodgepole Pine Forest, Rocky Mountain Dry Tundra, Rocky Mountain Aspen Forest and Woodland, Rocky Mountain Alpine Fell-Field.

Size: 711 acres

Elevation: 9372-11537 feet (Mean = 10483 feet)

Life Zone: Subalpine

Ownership: (Private: Public: ☒)

Comments: NPS.

Current Resource Protection and Management Designations:

See the Rocky Mountain National Park management plan.

Information Sources and References: Contact Boulder County Parks and Open Space Resource Management staff for a list of information sources and references compiled to create this Critical Wildlife Habitat description.

Critical Wildlife Habitat #68

Year Revised: New
Year Established: 2013

Common Name: Ouzel Creek

Critical Wildlife Habitat Criteria:

Vital SSC Habitat: ☒

Wildlife Concentration:

Unique Biodiversity:

Location (General): Located inside Rocky Mountain National Park, due west of the town of Allenspark. Due north of Copeland Mt. and lies at the intersection of Ouzel Creek and N St. Vrain Creek.

Designation Description: Area includes Ouzel Creek, Ouzel Lake and Chickadee Pond within Rocky Mountain National Park. Sub-alpine stream and lakes supporting a protected segment of native Greenback Cutthroat Trout habitat inside Rocky Mountain National Park. This site also supports a breeding location of Black Swift, which requires a very specialized habitat configuration and quality.

Key Species:

SSC Known Occurrence: Greenback Cutthroat Trout (*Oncorhynchus clarki*); Black Swift (*Cypseloides niger*)

SSC Potential Occurrence (within habitat area):

Threats to Species or Habitat: Greenback Cutthroat Trout are vulnerable to hybridization with and predation by other native and non-native salmonids; degradation of stream habitat quality by logging, livestock over-grazing, water diversions, organic and inorganic water pollution and high-intensity recreational use of streams. Due to recent evidence of hybridization with other salmonids, this species of trout is currently under review by the US Fish and Wildlife Service for re-assessment of its listing as a Threatened species under the Endangered Species Act. Black Swift are vulnerable to water management, forestry practices or recreational activities which reduce water quality and the production of aquatic insect prey needed for successful nesting. Ouzel Falls is a popular destination hike and the Bluebird Lake Trail bisects a significant length of the area.

Habitat Descriptions:

Habitat (General): Alpine creek and associated lake and pond.

Southwest Regional Gap Analysis Project Landcover Types: Rocky Mountain Subalpine-Montane Riparian Shrubland, Rocky Mountain Subalpine Mesic Spruce-Fir Forest and Woodland, Rocky Mountain Subalpine Dry-Mesic Spruce-Fir Forest and Woodland, Southern,, Rocky Mountain Montane-Subalpine Grassland, Rocky Mountain Lodgepole Pine Forest, Rocky, Mountain Cliff and Canyon, Recently Logged Areas, Rocky Mountain Alpine Bedrock and Scree, Rocky Mountain Subalpine-Montane Riparian Woodland.

Size: 392 acres

Elevation: 9167-10704 feet (Mean = 9951 feet)

Life Zone: Subalpine

Ownership: (Private: Public: ☒)

Comments: NPS.

Current Resource Protection and Management Designations:

See the Rocky Mountain National Park management plan.

Information Sources and References: Contact Boulder County Parks and Open Space Resource Management staff for a list of information sources and references compiled to create this Critical Wildlife Habitat description.

Critical Wildlife Habitat #69

Year Revised: New
Year Established: 2013

Common Name: Sandbeach Creek

Critical Wildlife Habitat Criteria:

Vital SSC Habitat: X

Wildlife Concentration:

Unique Biodiversity:

Location (General): Located inside Rocky Mountain National Park, west of the town of Allenspark. Occurs at the intersection of Sandbeach Creek and N St. Vrain Creek.

Designation Description: Area includes Sandbeach Creek and Sandbeach Lake within Rocky Mountain National Park. Sub-alpine stream and lake supporting a protected segment of native Greenback Cutthroat Trout habitat inside Rocky Mountain National Park. The configuration of the creek, including an obstruction in the downstream segment, allows this habitat to support a native population of trout.

Key Species:

SSC Known Occurrence: Greenback Cutthroat Trout (*Oncorhynchus clarki*)

SSC Potential Occurrence (within habitat area):

Threats to Species or Habitat: Greenback Cutthroat Trout are vulnerable to hybridization with and predation by other native and non-native salmonids; degradation of stream habitat quality by logging, livestock over-grazing, water diversions, organic and inorganic water pollution and high-intensity recreational use of streams. Due to recent evidence of hybridization with other salmonids, this species of trout is currently under review by the US Fish and Wildlife Service for re-assessment of its listing as a Threatened species under the Endangered Species Act. The Sandbeach Lake Trail provides visitor access to Sandbeach Lake.

Habitat Descriptions:

Habitat (General): High-elevation mountain stream flowing through mixed conifer forests of subalpine and upper montane. Old-growth Limber pine.

Southwest Regional Gap Analysis Project Landcover Types: Rocky Mountain Lodgepole Pine Forest, Rocky Mountain Subalpine Dry-Mesic Spruce-Fir Forest and Woodland, Rocky Mountain Subalpine Mesic Spruce-Fir Forest and Woodland, Rocky Mountain Ponderosa Pine Woodland, Rocky Mountain Subalpine-Montane Riparian Shrubland, Rocky Mountain Aspen Forest and Woodland, Open Water, Rocky Mountain Subalpine-Montane Riparian Woodland, Rocky Mountain Cliff and Canyon, Rocky Mountain Alpine Bedrock and Scree, Inter-Mountain West Aspen-Mixed Conifer Forest and Woodland Complex.

Size: 322 acres

Elevation: 8675-10411 feet (Mean = 9808 feet)

Life Zone: Subalpine

Ownership: (Private: Public: X)

Comments: NPS.

Current Resource Protection and Management Designations:

See the Rocky Mountain National Park management plan.

Information Sources and References: Contact Boulder County Parks and Open Space Resource Management staff for a list of information sources and references compiled to create this Critical Wildlife Habitat description.

Critical Wildlife Habitat #70

Year Revised: New
Year Established: 2013

Common Name: Peewink Mountain

Critical Wildlife Habitat Criteria:

Vital SSC Habitat: ☒

Wildlife Concentration:

Unique Biodiversity:

Location (General): Located NE of Nederland, near the intersection of Sugarloaf Rd. and CR124W.

Designation Description: Habitat which supports a rare Front Range location of Townsend's Big-eared bat maternity roost.

Key Species:

SSC Known Occurrence: Townsend's Big-eared Bat (*Corynorhinus townsendii*) maternity roost

SSC Potential Occurrence (within habitat area): Big Brown Bat, Hoary Bat, Silver-haired Bat, Beaver, Little Brown Myotis, Western Small-footed Myotis, Long legged myotis.

Threats to Species or Habitat: Townsend's Big Eared Bat are vulnerable to loss of roosting and breeding habitat by habitat fragmentation; increased recreational activities and development may increase the potential of human-transmitted White-Nosed Syndrome into winter colonies; bats accumulate toxins if found in prey near habitat.

Habitat Descriptions:

Habitat (General): Accessible mine shafts, Ponderosa pine woodland and Lodgepole pine forest.

Southwest Regional Gap Analysis Project Landcover Types: Rocky Mountain Ponderosa Pine Woodland, Rocky Mountain Lodgepole Pine Forest, Rocky Mountain Montane Mesic Mixed Conifer Forest and Woodland, Agriculture, Rocky Mountain Subalpine-Montane Riparian Shrubland, Rocky Mountain Montane Dry-Mesic Mixed Conifer Forest and Woodland, Southern Rocky Mountain Montane-Subalpine Grassland, Rocky Mountain Subalpine-Montane Riparian Woodland, Inter-Mountain Basins Montane Sagebrush Steppe, Rocky Mountain Lower Montane-Foothill Shrubland, Rocky Mountain Alpine-Montane Wet Meadow, Rocky Mountain Cliff and Canyon, Rocky Mountain Aspen Forest and Woodland.

Size: 83 acres

Elevation: 7592-8289 feet (Mean = 7908 feet)

Life Zone: Montane

Ownership: (Private: ☒ Public: ☒)

Comments: USFS and private property.

Current Resource Protection and Management Designations:

See the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests Land and Resource Management Plan.

Information Sources and References: Contact Boulder County Parks and Open Space Resource Management staff for a list of information sources and references compiled to create this Critical Wildlife Habitat description.

Critical Wildlife Habitat #71

Year Revised: New
Year Established: 2013

Common Name: Red Hill Gulch

Critical Wildlife Habitat Criteria:

Vital SSC Habitat: X
Wildlife Concentration: X
Unique Biodiversity: X

Location (General): Located on the east side of Heil Valley Ranch, due south of the town of Lyons.

Designation Description: High-quality habitat area which supports a diversity of avian and butterfly species. Ponderosa woodland habitat supporting Goshawk.

Key Species:

SSC Known Occurrence: Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*); Long-eared Owl (*Asia otus*); Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*); Rare Butterfly concentration; Avian biodiversity

SSC Potential Occurrence (within habitat area): Hops Feeding Azure, American Badger, Big Brown Bat, Brazilian Free-tailed Bat, Hoary Bat, Silver-haired Bat, Townsend's Big-eared Bat, Colorado Blue, Indigo Bunting, Lazuli Bunting, Bushtit, Colorado Chipmunk, Uinta Chipmunk, Mottled Duskywing, Moss's Elf, Peregrine Falcon, Prairie Falcon, Northern Flicker, Gray Fox, Chorus Frog, Regal Fritillary, Northern Pocket Gopher, Northern Harrier, Ferruginous Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, White-tailed Jackrabbit, Western Scrub Jay, Northern Mockingbird, Northern Grasshopper Mouse, Olive-back Pocket Mouse, Plains Harvest Mouse, Plains Pocket Mouse, Silky Pocket Mouse, Fringed Myotis, Little Brown Myotis, Long-eared Myotis, Long-legged Myotis, Western Small-footed Myotis, Burrowing Owl, Flammulated Owl, Northern Pygmy Owl, Short-eared Owl, Band-tailed Pigeon, North American Porcupine, Ord's Kangaroo Rat, Western Scrub-Jay, Loggerhead Shrike, Pine Siskin, Arogos Skipper, Cross-line Skipper, Dusted Skipper, Ottoe Skipper, Two-spotted Skipper, Common Garter Snake, Lined Snake, Milk Snake, Fox Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, Thirteen-lined Ground Squirrel, Sage Thrasher, Plumbeous Vireo, Heather Vole, Meadow Vole, Virginia's Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, Rock Wren

Threats to Species or Habitat: Golden Eagle are vulnerable to human encroachment near their nests sites during the breeding season, such as from climbing; disturbances can result in nest abandonment and negatively impact recruitment rates and population trends. The Picture Rock Trail is designated on-trail only during the nesting season. Long-eared Owl is vulnerable to loss of breeding habitat, such as trees adjacent to grasslands and shrublands. Primary threats to Northern Goshawk populations are alteration of its preferred habitat by forestry management practices including modification or destruction of nesting. Additionally, increased fragmentation of habitat by roads, trails and development degrades goshawk habitat value; susceptible to collection by falconers. The listed butterflies are negatively affected by the reduction of prairie habitat size and fragmentation, weed encroachment into host plant habitats, diversion or modification of water courses and associated host plant communities, and the potentially disruptive effects of some methods of prescribed fire. Avian biodiversity is sensitive to fragmentation, loss of structural diversity or reduced habitat productivity.

Habitat Descriptions:

Habitat (General): Cliff faces, shrublands, wet meadow, intermittent streams and grasslands.

Southwest Regional Gap Analysis Project Landcover Types: Rocky Mountain Ponderosa Pine Woodland, Rocky Mountain Lower Montane-Foothill Shrubland, Rocky Mountain Alpine-Montane Wet Meadow, Western Great Plains Foothill and Piedmont Grassland, Invasive Perennial Grassland, Developed, Open Space - Low Intensity, Rocky Mountain Montane Dry-Mesic Mixed Conifer Forest and Woodland, Rocky Mountain Montane Mesic Mixed Conifer Forest and Woodland.

Size: 625 acres

Elevation: 5510-6578 feet (Mean = 6066 feet)

Life Zone: Montane

Ownership: (Private: X Public: X)

Comments: BCPOS Open Space and private property.

Current Resource Protection and Management Designations:

See relevant BCPOS management plans.

Information Sources and References: Contact Boulder County Parks and Open Space Resource Management staff for a list of information sources and references compiled to create this Critical Wildlife Habitat description.

Critical Wildlife Habitat #72

Year Revised: New
Year Established: 2013

Common Name: Antelope Park

Critical Wildlife Habitat Criteria:

Vital SSC Habitat: X

Wildlife Concentration:

Unique Biodiversity:

Location (General): Located on Hall Ranch, due west of the town of Lyons.

Designation Description: Area which supports a high elevation prairie dog colony and serves as a critical foraging area for several species of raptor, such as the Golden Eagle.

Key Species:

SSC Known Occurrence: Black Tailed Prairie Dog (*Cynomys ludovicianus*; highest elevation colony and critical raptor foraging area)

SSC Potential Occurrence (within habitat area): American Badger, Golden Eagle, Prairie Falcon, Gray Fox, Northern Pocket Gopher, Northern Harrier, Ferruginous Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, White-tailed Jackrabbit, Western Scrub Jay, Horned Lark, Short Horned Lizard, Northern Grasshopper Mouse, Olive-back Pocket Mouse, Plains Harvest Mouse, Plains Pocket Mouse, Silky Pocket Mouse, Little Brown Myotis, Western Small-footed Myotis, Ovenbird, Burrowing Owl, Short-eared Owl, Band-tailed Pigeon, Mountain Plover, North American Porcupine, Ord's Kangaroo Rat, Western Scrub-Jay, Merriam's Shrew, Loggerhead Shrike, Rhesus Skipper, Simius Roadside Skipper, Lined Snake, Milk Snake, Brewer's Sparrow, Cassin's Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, Thirteen-lined Ground Squirrel, Sage Thrasher, Rock Wren

Threats to Species or Habitat: Black Tailed Prairie Dogs are vulnerable to direct population declines from large-scale pest control programs and outbreaks of sylvatic plague, as well as conversion of prairie habitat to agriculture, urban development or recreational uses. Portions of the Nighthawk, Bitterbrush, and Nelson Loop Trails are all within the area.

Habitat Descriptions:

Habitat (General): Grasslands.

Southwest Regional Gap Analysis Project Landcover Types: Rocky Mountain Lower Montane-Foothill Shrubland, Western Great Plains Foothill and Piedmont Grassland, Invasive Perennial Grassland, Rocky Mountain Alpine-Montane Wet Meadow, Agriculture, Rocky Mountain Ponderosa Pine Woodland.

Size: 83 acres

Elevation: 6037-6187 feet (Mean = 6103 feet)

Life Zone: Montane

Ownership: (Private: Public: X)

Comments: BCPOS Open Space.

Current Resource Protection and Management Designations:

See relevant BCPOS management plans.

Information Sources and References: Contact Boulder County Parks and Open Space Resource Management staff for a list of information sources and references compiled to create this Critical Wildlife Habitat description.

Critical Wildlife Habitat #73

Year Revised: New
Year Established: 2013

Common Name: North Saint Vrain Canyon

Critical Wildlife Habitat Criteria:

Vital SSC Habitat: X

Wildlife Concentration: X

Unique Biodiversity: X

Location (General): Located near the northern Boulder County border, NE of the town of Allenspark and west of the Buttonrock Reservoir. Occurs over wilderness-like area of the N St. Vrain Creek.

Designation Description: This area represents the last, best example of a large, relatively undisturbed foothills watershed in the Front Range and the largest known expanse of endemic shrubland including bitterbrush/mountain muhly and old growth ponderosa pine. Varied, steep terrain, including many cliff faces and the riparian areas of St. Vrain Creek, Rock Creek, and Roaring Fork Creek enable this region to support a sweeping variety of vital habitat for species of special concern, particularly for promoting the habitat needs of Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep. The US Forest Service Management of this region is directed towards managing the natural system and promoting the conditions necessary to sustain highly effective habitat and a functional watershed.

Key Species:

SSC Known Occurrence: Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep (*Ovis canadensis canadensis*) concentration area; Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*); Lake Chub (*Coesius plumbeus*; CO re-discovery); Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*); Prairie Falcon (*Falco mexicanus*); Olive-sided Flycatcher (*Contopus cooperi*); Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*); Northern Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*); Flammulated Owl (*Otus flammeolus*); American Three-toed Woodpecker (*Picoides dorsalis*); North American Porcupine (*Erethizon dorsatum*); Golden-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus satrapa*); American Beaver (*Castor canadensis*); Lazuli Bunting (*Passerina amoena*); American Dipper (*Cinclus mexicanus*); Belted Kingfisher (*Megaceryle alcyon*); Virginia's Warbler (*Oreothlypis virginiae*); Wilson's Warbler (*Cardellina pusilla*); Northern Pocket Gopher (*Thomomys talpoides*)

SSC Potential Occurrence (within habitat area): Hops Feeding Azure, American Badger, Big Brown Bat, Brazilian Free-tailed Bat, Hoary Bat, Silver-haired Bat, Townsend's Big-eared Bat, Tricolored Bat, Beaver, Prairie Tiger Beetle, American Bittern, Lazuli Bunting, Bushtit, Rocky Mountain Capshell, Colorado Chipmunk, Uinta Chipmunk, White-winged Crossbill, Northern Redbelly Dace, Lake Darner, American Dipper, Hudsonian Emerald Dragonfly, Ring-necked Duck, Mottled Duskywing, Moss's Elf, American Emerald, Peregrine Falcon, Northern Flicker, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Willow Flycatcher, Gray Fox, Regal Fritillary, Chorus Frog, Barrow's Goldeneye, Northern Pocket Gopher, Northern Goshawk, Eared Grebe, Northern Harrier, Great Blue Heron, White-tailed Jackrabbit, River Jewelwing, Rocky Mountain Arctic Jutta, Belted Kingfisher, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Canada Lynx, American Marten, Northern Rock Mouse, Fringed Myotis, Little Brown Myotis, Long-legged Myotis, Western Small-footed Myotis, River Otter, Boreal Owl, Flammulated Owl, Long-eared Owl, Mexican Spotted Owl, Northern Pygmy Owl, Band-tailed Pigeon, North American Porcupine, American Redstart, Ringtail, Tiger Salamander, Williamson's Sapsucker, Bigmouth Shiner, Common Shiner, American Water Shrew, Dwarf Shrew, Merriam's Shrew, Pine Siskin, Snow's Skipper, Two-banded Checkered Skipper, Two-spotted Skipper, Milk Snake, Brewer's Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Sharp Sprite, Umbilicate Sprite, Stonecat, Sage Thrasher, Greenback Cutthroat Trout, Veery, Plumbeous Vireo, Heather Vole, Virginia's Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, Cedar Waxwing, American Three-toed Woodpecker, Lewis's Woodpecker, Rock Wren

Threats to Species or Habitat: Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep are vulnerable to habitat loss, particularly breeding ground and migratory areas, from human encroachment, forestry practices or recreational activities; contact with domestic sheep can transfer disease; overhunting; invasive weeds can displace native vegetation needed as forage. Prairie Falcon and Golden Eagle are vulnerable to human encroachment near their nests sites during the breeding season, such as from climbing; disturbances can result in nest abandonment and negatively impact recruitment rates and population trends. Lake Chub are sensitive to direct mortality or loss of breeding habitat by dewatering or dredging of rocky shore and shoal habitat along lake margins, or blockage of open tributary streams used for breeding in early spring; introduction of invasive or exotic species such as crayfish which may consume eggs or fry; excessive stocking of predatory game fish which may deplete the adult population; contamination of water with organic waste

which leads to reduced oxygen or water quality. Bald Eagle are vulnerable to nest site encroachment and destruction of nesting trees, contamination of prey from pesticides and loss of prey base due to large-scale pest control programs. Olive-sided Flycatcher are vulnerable to loss of tree snags for nesting and mature forest stands, forest management practices can cause "ecological traps" which reduce breeding success. Primary threats to Northern Goshawk populations are alteration of its preferred habitat by forestry management practices including modification or destruction of nesting. Additionally, increased fragmentation of habitat by roads, trails and development degrades goshawk habitat value; susceptible to collection by falconers. Northern Harrier is especially vulnerable due to nesting habitat declines and foraging habitat in and around wetlands due to land conversion and recreational use; this is a candidate for the most imperiled avian species in Boulder County. Flammulated Owl are vulnerable to forestry practices in old growth forest and pesticides use in the habitat can lead to nest failure. American Three-toed Woodpecker are vulnerable to forestry or recreational activities which remove trees with suitable nesting cavities as well as fragment habitat. North American Porcupine are vulnerable to habitat fragmentation and urbanization which increases predation by domestic animals. Golden-crowned Kinglet are vulnerable to forestry practices and recreational activities which reduce boreal spruce-fir forests and other habitats needed for nesting. American Beaver are vulnerable to trapping for sport or direct removal of dams or individuals. Lazuli Bunting is sensitive to removal or disturbance of shrubland breeding habitats. American Dipper are vulnerable to development or degradation of stream and bankside vegetation used for foraging and breeding; reduction of water quality leads to loss of invertebrate prey. Belted Kingfisher is sensitive to changes in water quality and prey availability in stream courses; urban development and recreational activities strongly affect kingfisher behavior and breeding success; nesting sites are limited to earthen banks which may be altered by riparian and stream corridor management. Virginia's Warbler are vulnerable to forestry practices which may lead to increased cowbird parasitism and reduction of breeding success. Wilson's Warbler are sensitive to forestry, agricultural or recreational activities which reduce or fragment riparian habitats used for breeding. Northern Pocket Gopher are vulnerable to practices which fragment habitat.

Habitat Descriptions:

Habitat (General): Varied, rugged terrain with multiple cliff faces and other rocky habitat features. Expansive, functional Foothills watershed. Rock Creek, North Saint Vrain Creek, Coulson Gulch and several other perennial and intermittent streams flow through the site, with associated riparian, wet meadow and shrubland habitat. Active beaver ponds. Endemic shrubland including bitterbrush, mountain muhly and old growth ponderosa pine. Large, unfragmented expanses of Ponderosa pine woodlands, Lodgepole pine forest and other mixed conifer forest.

Southwest Regional Gap Analysis Project Landcover Types: Rocky Mountain Ponderosa Pine Woodland, Rocky Mountain Montane Mesic Mixed Conifer Forest and Woodland, Rocky Mountain Lodgepole Pine Forest, Rocky Mountain Lower Montane-Foothill Shrubland, Rocky Mountain Montane Dry-Mesic Mixed Conifer Forest and Woodland, Southern Rocky Mountain Montane-Subalpine Grassland, Inter-Mountain Basins Montane Sagebrush Steppe, Agriculture, Rocky Mountain Cliff and Canyon, Rocky Mountain Subalpine-Montane Riparian Woodland, Rocky Mountain Subalpine-Montane Riparian Shrubland, Rocky Mountain Aspen Forest and Woodland, Rocky Mountain Alpine-Montane Wet Meadow, Recently Mined or Quarried, Rocky Mountain Gambel Oak-Mixed Montane Shrubland, Western Great Plains Foothill and Piedmont Grassland, Inter-Mountain Basins Active and Stabilized Dune, Rocky Mountain Lower Montane Riparian Woodland and Shrubland.

Size: 4958 acres

Elevation: 6740-8804 feet (Mean = 7867 feet)

Life Zone: Montane

Ownership: (Private: Public: ☒)

Comments: USFS and city of Longmont.

Current Resource Protection and Management Designations:

See the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests Land and Resource Management Plan. See the USFS Establishment Record for the North St. Vrain Natural Area within Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee Grassland, Boulder County, Colorado.

Information Sources and References: Contact Boulder County Parks and Open Space Resource Management staff for a list of information sources and references compiled to create this Critical Wildlife Habitat description.

Critical Wildlife Habitat #74

Year Revised: New
Year Established: 2013

Common Name: Hat Rock

Critical Wildlife Habitat Criteria:

Vital SSC Habitat: X

Wildlife Concentration:

Unique Biodiversity:

Location (General): Located on Hall Ranch, west of the town of Lyons, encompassing a portion of Indian Lookout Mt.

Designation Description: Cliff face which provides vital nesting habitat for the Prairie Falcon.

Key Species:

SSC Known Occurrence: Prairie Falcon (*Falco mexicanus*)

SSC Potential Occurrence (within habitat area): Big Brown Bat, Hoary Bat, Silver-haired Bat, Townsend's Big-eared Bat, Lazuli Bunting, Bushtit, Colorado Chipmunk, Mottled Duskywing, Golden Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Gray Fox, Northern Pocket Gopher, White-tailed Jackrabbit, Northern Rock Mouse, Fringed Myotis, Little Brown Myotis, Western Small-footed Myotis, Ringtail, Western Scrub-Jay, Snow's Skipper, Two-banded Checkered Skipper, Two-spotted Skipper, Brewer's Sparrow, Sage Thrasher, Rock Wren

Threats to Species or Habitat: Prairie Falcon are vulnerable to human encroachment near their nests sites during the breeding season, such as from climbing. However, the area is closed to public access; disturbances can result in nest abandonment and negatively impact recruitment rates and population trends.

Habitat Descriptions:

Habitat (General): Rocky cliff faces.

Southwest Regional Gap Analysis Project Landcover Types: Rocky Mountain Lower Montane-Foothill Shrubland, Western Great Plains Foothill and Piedmont Grassland, Rocky Mountain Ponderosa Pine Woodland.

Size: 180 acres

Elevation: 5547-6494 feet (Mean = 5896 feet)

Life Zone: Montane

Ownership: (Private: Public: X)

Comments: BCPOS Open Space.

Current Resource Protection and Management Designations:

See relevant BCPOS management plans.

Information Sources and References: Contact Boulder County Parks and Open Space Resource Management staff for a list of information sources and references compiled to create this Critical Wildlife Habitat description.

Critical Wildlife Habitat #75

Year Revised: New
Year Established: 2013

Common Name: Ingersoll Quarry

Critical Wildlife Habitat Criteria:

Vital SSC Habitat: X

Wildlife Concentration:

Unique Biodiversity:

Location (General): Located on a central portion of Heil Valley Ranch, SW of the town of Lyons.

Designation Description: This quarry is a dependable regional water source that is uniquely high in calcium, a trait that is vital to successful rearing of young for many bat species. Several other types of native wildlife use the quarry and surrounding habitat for breeding, drinking and resting.

Key Species:

SSC Known Occurrence: Long-legged Myotis (*Myotis volans*, critical water source); Tiger Salamander (*Ambystoma tigrinum*); Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*); Long-eared Myotis (*Myotis evotis*, critical water source, maternity colonies); Tiger Salamander (*Ambystoma tigrinum*); Townsend's Big-eared Bat (*Corynorhinus townsendii*); Fringed Myotis (*Myotis thysanodes*); Western Small-footed Myotis (*Myotis ciliolabrum*), Hoary Bat (*Lasiurus cinereus*), Silver-haired bat (*Lasionycteris noctivagans*)

SSC Potential Occurrence (within habitat area):

Threats to Species or Habitat: Long-legged Myotis, Long-eared Myotis, Townsend's Big-eared Bat, Fringed Myotis, Western Small-footed Myotis, Hoary Bat, and Silver-haired are vulnerable to loss of roosting and breeding habitat by habitat fragmentation, which may also increase the risk of white-nose syndrome; bats accumulate toxins if found in prey near habitat; improper mine closures without survey reduce habitat availability; Ingersoll Quarry offers a critical and rare, calcium-rich water source for breeding colonies. Tiger Salamander are vulnerable to stocking or invasion of fish into previously fishless waterbodies; modification or destruction of wetland, seasonal or semipermanent aquatic habitats; conversion of terrestrial uplands adjacent to wetlands, which serve as burrowing substrate for juveniles, into urban development or agriculture production; endocrine and developmental disruption due to agricultural pesticides. Primary threats to Northern Goshawk populations are alteration of its preferred habitat by forestry management practices including modification or destruction of nesting. Tiger Salamander are vulnerable to stocking or invasion of fish into previously fishless waterbodies; modification or destruction of wetland, seasonal or semipermanent aquatic habitats; conversion of terrestrial uplands adjacent to wetlands, which serve as burrowing substrate for juveniles, into urban development or agriculture production; endocrine and developmental disruption due to agricultural pesticides. Additionally, increased fragmentation of habitat by roads, trails and development degrades goshawk habitat value; susceptible to collection by falconers.

Habitat Descriptions:

Habitat (General): Montane quarry pond.

Southwest Regional Gap Analysis Project Landcover Types: Rocky Mountain Ponderosa Pine Woodland, Rocky Mountain Montane Mesic Mixed Conifer Forest and Woodland, Western Great Plains Foothill and Piedmont Grassland, Rocky Mountain Montane Dry-Mesic Mixed Conifer Forest and Woodland.

Size: 86 acres

Elevation: 6605-6962 feet (Mean = 6806 feet)

Life Zone: Montane

Ownership: (Private: Public: X)

Comments: BCPOS Open Space and USFS.

Current Resource Protection and Management Designations:

See relevant BCPOS management plans. See the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests Land and Resource Management Plan.

Information Sources and References: Contact Boulder County Parks and Open Space Resource Management staff for a list of information sources and references compiled to create this Critical Wildlife Habitat description.

Critical Wildlife Habitat #76

Year Revised: New

Year Established: 2013

Common Name: South Draw

Critical Wildlife Habitat Criteria:

Vital SSC Habitat: X

Wildlife Concentration: X

Unique Biodiversity:

Location (General): Located SW of the town of Eldorado Springs, between two areas of Eldorado Canyon State Park, on the south Boulder County border.

Designation Description: Relatively unfragmented and wilderness-like region which is highly productive for wildlife and closely situated to human settlement. Ruggedness and complexity of the area supports the unique habitat requirements for Northern Goshawk nesting, as well as rare owl and butterfly habitats.

Key Species:

SSC Known Occurrence: Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*); Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*); Flammulated Owl (*Otus flammeus*); Mottled Duskywing (*Erynnis martialis*)

SSC Potential Occurrence (within habitat area): Hops Feeding Azure, American Badger, Big Brown Bat, Hoary Bat, Silver-haired Bat, Townsend's Big-eared Bat, Beaver, Lazuli Bunting, Bushtit, Colorado Chipmunk, Lake Darter, American Dipper, Hudsonian Emerald Dragonfly, Moss's Elfin, American Emerald, Peregrine Falcon, Prairie Falcon, Northern Flicker, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Gray Fox, Chorus Frog, Northern Pocket Gopher, River Jewelwing, Belted Kingfisher, American Marten, Northern Rock Mouse, Fringed Myotis, Little Brown Myotis, Long-legged Myotis, River Otter, Flammulated Owl, Long-eared Owl, Northern Pygmy Owl, North American Porcupine, Ringtail, Tiger Salamander, Williamson's Sapsucker, American Water Shrew, Dwarf Shrew, Merriam's Shrew, Pine Siskin, Snow's Skipper, Two-banded Checkered Skipper, Two-spotted Skipper, Milk Snake, Fox Sparrow, Sage Thrasher, Plumbeous Vireo, Heather Vole, Wilson's Warbler, Cedar Waxwing, Lewis's Woodpecker, Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse.

Threats to Species or Habitat: Golden Eagle are vulnerable to human encroachment near their nests sites during the breeding season, such as from climbing; disturbances can result in nest abandonment and negatively impact recruitment rates and population trends. Primary threats to Northern Goshawk populations are alteration of its preferred habitat by forestry management practices including modification or destruction of nesting. Additionally, increased fragmentation of habitat by roads, trails and development degrades goshawk habitat value; susceptible to collection by falconers. Flammulated Owl are vulnerable to forestry practices in old growth forest and pesticides use in the habitat can lead to nest failure. Mottled Duskywing are negatively affected by the fragmentation of scrubby hilltop areas used by breeding males, the reduction of prairie habitat size and fragmentation, weed encroachment into host plant habitats, diversion or modification of water courses and associated host plant communities, and the potentially disruptive effects of some methods of prescribed fire. This area is subject to daily heavy coal train traffic in the southeast portion of the area.

Habitat Descriptions:

Habitat (General): Juxtaposition of several productive habitat types, unfragmented and wilderness-like region. Rocky cliff faces and old growth forest covered with Ponderosa Pine woodland and mixed conifer forest. Includes portions of South Boulder Creek, as well as perennial Johnson Gulch and South Draw streams.

Southwest Regional Gap Analysis Project Landcover Types: Rocky Mountain Ponderosa Pine Woodland, Rocky Mountain Montane Mesic Mixed Conifer Forest and Woodland, Rocky Mountain Montane Dry-Mesic Mixed Conifer Forest and Woodland, Rocky Mountain Lower Montane-Foothill Shrubland, Western Great Plains Foothill and Piedmont Grassland, Rocky Mountain Lodgepole Pine Forest.

Size: 907 acres

Elevation: 6150-7649 feet (Mean = 6933 feet)

Life Zone: Montane

Ownership: (Private: ☒ Public: ☒)

Comments: BCPOS Open Space, city and county of Denver, BLM, State of Colorado and private property.

Current Resource Protection and Management Designations:

See relevant BCPOS management plans.

Information Sources and References: Contact Boulder County Parks and Open Space Resource Management staff for a list of information sources and references compiled to create this Critical Wildlife Habitat description.

Critical Wildlife Habitat #77

Year Revised: New
Year Established: 2013

Common Name: Hodgson-Harris Reservoir

Critical Wildlife Habitat Criteria:

Vital SSC Habitat: X

Wildlife Concentration:

Unique Biodiversity:

Location (General): Located on the NE side of the town of Superior, near the intersection of Rock Creek Pkwy and S 88th St.

Designation Description: Small reservoir area containing mudflats and adjacent low-emergent vegetation used as vital breeding habitat for the Northern Leopard Frog.

Key Species:

SSC Known Occurrence: Northern Leopard Frog (*Rana pipiens*); American Avocet (*Recurvirostra americana*)

SSC Potential Occurrence (within habitat area): Double-crested Cormorant, Bald Eagle, Great Egret, Chorus Frog, Rough-legged Hawk, Great Blue Heron, Tiger Salamander, Common Garter Snake, Eared Grebe.

Threats to Species or Habitat: Northern Leopard Frog are vulnerable to destruction of wetland habitats, the invasion of bullfrogs due to habitat disturbance and subsequent predation or mortality from disease. American Avocet are sensitive to loss of habitat created by vernal flooding regimes as a result of agricultural water diversions of in-stream flows and urban flood control projects. This site will be subject to reservoir and dam reconstruction in 2014, and also is subject to recreational trespass as a de-facto neighborhood park.

Habitat Descriptions:

Habitat (General): Small reservoir with mudflats and adjacent low-emergent vegetation.

Southwest Regional Gap Analysis Project Landcover Types: Open Water, Invasive Perennial Grassland.

Size: 12 acres

Elevation: 5412-5421 feet (Mean = 5416 feet)

Life Zone: Plains

Ownership: (Private: Public: X)

Comments: BCPOS Open Space and town of Superior.

Current Resource Protection and Management Designations:

See relevant BCPOS management plans.

Information Sources and References: Contact Boulder County Parks and Open Space Resource Management staff for a list of information sources and references compiled to create this Critical Wildlife Habitat description.

Critical Wildlife Habitat #78

Year Revised: New
Year Established: 2013

Common Name: Buffalo Gulch and Rock Creek

Critical Wildlife Habitat Criteria:

Vital SSC Habitat: X

Wildlife Concentration:

Unique Biodiversity:

Location (General): Located on the SW section of Rock Creek Farm, along portions of Rock Creek and Buffalo Gulch. Area located roughly between Brainard Dr. and US287.

Designation Description: Dispersed area of low emergent vegetation within Rock Creek and adjacent riparian habitat which serves as vital movement corridor for Northern Leopard Frog. Critical breeding habitat for Northern Leopard Frog within Buffalo Gulch.

Key Species:

SSC Known Occurrence: Northern Leopard Frog (*Rana pipiens*)

SSC Potential Occurrence (within habitat area): American Avocet, American Badger, Big Brown Bat, Brazilian Free-tailed Bat, Eastern Red Bat, Tricolored Bat, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Colorado Blue, Indigo Bunting, Lark Bunting, Colorado Chipmunk, Great Egret, Peregrine Falcon, Prairie Falcon, Northern Flicker, Regal Fritillary, Chorus Frog, Northern Pocket Gopher, Northern Harrier, Ferruginous Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, Black-crowned Night Heron, Great Blue Heron, Belted Kingfisher, Horned Lark, Northern Grasshopper Mouse, Plains Harvest Mouse, Plains Pocket Mouse, Silky Pocket Mouse, Little Brown Myotis, Burrowing Owl, Black-tailed Prairie Dog, Ord's Kangaroo Rat, Tiger Salamander, Western Scrub-Jay, Dwarf Shrew, Least Shrew, Loggerhead Shrike, Arogos Skipper, Cross-line Skipper, Dusted Skipper, Ottoe Skipper, Rhesus Skipper, Simius Roadside Skipper, Common Garter Snake, Lined Snake, Milk Snake, Cassin's Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, Thirteen-lined Ground Squirrel

Threats to Species or Habitat: Northern Leopard Frog are vulnerable to destruction of wetland habitats, the invasion of bullfrogs due to habitat disturbance and subsequent predation or mortality from disease. This area is subject to active farming and livestock grazing, although portions of the stream are protected by fencing. The Cradleboard Trail parallels much of Buffalo Gulch and portions of Rock Creek.

Habitat Descriptions:

Habitat (General): Perennial Rock Creek and Buffalo Gulch Creek and adjacent riparian habitat containing dispersed areas of low emergent vegetation and shrubs, as well as grassland areas around creeks.

Southwest Regional Gap Analysis Project Landcover Types: Agriculture, Western Great Plains Riparian Woodland and Shrubland, Invasive Perennial Grassland, Western Great Plains Floodplain Herbaceous Wetland, Western Great Plains Foothill and Piedmont Grassland, Western Great Plains Shortgrass Prairie.

Size: 221 acres

Elevation: 5250-5361 feet (Mean = 5284 feet)

Life Zone: Plains

Ownership: (Private: Public: X)

Comments: BCPOS Open Space.

Current Resource Protection and Management Designations:

See relevant BCPOS management plans.

Information Sources and References: Contact Boulder County Parks and Open Space Resource Management staff for a list of information sources and references compiled to create this Critical Wildlife Habitat description.

Critical Wildlife Habitat #79

Year Revised: New
Year Established: 2013

Common Name: Bear and Aspen Canyons

Critical Wildlife Habitat Criteria:

Vital SSC Habitat: ☒

Wildlife Concentration:

Unique Biodiversity:

Location (General): Located west of the city of Boulder, near Bear Peak.

Designation Description: Foothills drainage area which supports old growth Ponderosa forest and high concentration Flammulated Owl. Habitat also supports a high diversity of native forest birds.

Key Species:

SSC Known Occurrence: Flammulated Owl (*Otus flammeus*); Plumbeous Vireo (*Vireo plumbeus*); Pine Siskin (*Spinus pinus*); Virginia's Warbler (*Oreothlypis virginiae*); Rock Wren (*Salpinctes obsoletus*)

SSC Potential Occurrence (within habitat area): Williamson's Sapsucker

Threats to Species or Habitat: Flammulated Owl are vulnerable to high-severity wildfire which can negatively impact habitat and incompatible forest thinning practices such as removing trees from ridgetops (preferred trees from which Flammulated Owls sing). Plumbeous Vireo are sensitive to fragmentation of ponderosa pine habitats. Pine Siskin are vulnerable to forestry or recreational practices which fragment habitat which may increase predation or parasitism of adults or young. Virginia's Warbler are vulnerable to forestry practices which may lead to increased cowbird parasitism and reduction of breeding success. Rock Wren are sensitive to practices which increase habitat fragmentation leading to increased nest parasitism or predation.

Habitat Descriptions:

Habitat (General): Foothills drainage adjacent to Bear Canyon Creek containing mixed conifer forest and woodland.

Southwest Regional Gap Analysis Project Landcover Types: Rocky Mountain Montane Mesic Mixed Conifer Forest and Woodland, Rocky Mountain Montane Dry-Mesic Mixed Conifer Forest and Woodland, Rocky Mountain Ponderosa Pine Woodland, Rocky Mountain Subalpine-Montane Riparian Woodland.

Size: 320 acres

Elevation: 6838-7685 feet (Mean = 7285 feet)

Life Zone: Montane

Ownership: (Private: ☒ Public: ☒)

Comments: City of Boulder, Boulder municipal property authority and private property.

Current Resource Protection and Management Designations:

See the relevant city of Boulder management plan. This area was designated in OSMP's Visitor Master Plan (2005) as a Habitat Conservation Area, where visitors require a permit to walk off-trail and dogs need to be leashed.

Information Sources and References: Contact Boulder County Parks and Open Space Resource Management staff for a list of information sources and references compiled to create this Critical Wildlife Habitat description.

Critical Wildlife Habitat #80

Year Revised: New
Year Established: 2013

Common Name: Giggey Lake

Critical Wildlife Habitat Criteria:

Vital SSC Habitat: X

Wildlife Concentration:

Unique Biodiversity: X

Location (General): Located SE of the town of Nederland, due west of the intersection of Magnolia Dr. and CR 97.

Designation Description: Lake and associated wetland which supports a unique concentration of wetland and grassland associated avian species. The lake serves as vital habitat for imperiled species of mollusk, and productive habitat for amphibians.

Key Species:

SSC Known Occurrence: Sharp Sprite (*Promenetus exacuus*); Umbilicate Sprite (*Promenetus umbilicatellus*); Chorus Frog (*Pseudacris triseriata*); Tiger Salamander (*Ambystoma tigrinum*); Avian biodiversity; Historical occurrence of Boreal Toad (*Anaxyrus boreas*)

SSC Potential Occurrence (within habitat area): Hudsonian Emerald Dragonfly, American Emerald, River Jewelwing, Lake Darner, Two-banded Checkered Skipper, Northern Pocket Gopher, Dwarf Shrew, Heather Vole, Ring-necked Duck, Hoary Bat, Little Brown Myotis, Western Small-footed Myotis.

Threats to Species or Habitat: Sharp Sprite are vulnerable due to loss or modification of lakes, ponds and wetlands with the greatest densities of cattail. Umbilicate Sprite are vulnerable to degraded water quality in high-altitude lakes, creeks, ditches and wetlands where it occurs; difficulty in identification with the Sharp Sprite coupled with failure of discovery of either species during recent surveys increases the possibility of state extirpation and therefore population sensitivity to habitat disturbance. Chorus Frog are sensitive to agricultural practices which use pesticides, herbicides or fertilizers in the habitat, and vulnerable to loss of aquatic habitat quality. Tiger Salamander are vulnerable to stocking or invasion of fish into previously fishless waterbodies; modification or destruction of wetland, seasonal or semipermanent aquatic habitats; conversion of terrestrial uplands adjacent to wetlands, which serve as burrowing substrate for juveniles, into urban development or agriculture production; endocrine and developmental disruption due to agricultural pesticides. Avian biodiversity is sensitive to fragmentation, loss of structural diversity or reduced habitat productivity. This area is subject to summer livestock grazing, but has a protective riparian pasture fence.

Habitat Descriptions:

Habitat (General): Montane lake, riparian shrubland and wet meadow.

Southwest Regional Gap Analysis Project Landcover Types: Agriculture, Rocky Mountain Subalpine-Montane Riparian Shrubland, Rocky Mountain Alpine-Montane Wet Meadow, Rocky Mountain Ponderosa Pine Woodland, Rocky Mountain Lodgepole Pine Forest.

Size: 13 acres

Elevation: 8466-8511 feet (Mean = 8493 feet)

Life Zone: Montane

Ownership: (Private: Public: X)

Comments: BCPOS Open Space.

Current Resource Protection and Management Designations:

See relevant BCPOS management plans.

Information Sources and References: Contact Boulder County Parks and Open Space Resource Management staff for a list of information sources and references compiled to create this Critical Wildlife Habitat description.

Critical Wildlife Habitat #81

Year Revised: New
Year Established: 2013

Common Name: Hall II

Critical Wildlife Habitat Criteria:

Vital SSC Habitat: X

Wildlife Concentration:

Unique Biodiversity: X

Location (General): Located on Hall II, SW of the town of Lyons, and both areas closely intersect SH7.

Designation Description: Lower Montane shrub habitat which is mixed with ponderosa pine, juniper and several fruiting shrubs. The habitat follows intermittent streams and contains a diversity of geographic features, which has contributed to the development of a high diversity of native avian species of special concern. These areas also support vital habitat for amphibians and butterflies.

Key Species:

SSC Known Occurrence: Moss's Elfin (*Callophrys mossii*); Lazuli Bunting (*Passerina amoena*); Northern Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*); Plumbeous Vireo (*Vireo plumbeus*); Rock Wren (*Salpinctes obsoletus*); Virginia's Warbler (*Oreothlypis virginiae*); Wilson's Warbler (*Cardellina pusilla*); Northern Leopard Frog (*Rana pipiens*); Tiger Salamander (*Ambystoma tigrinum*); Avian biodiversity; Brewer's Sparrow (*Spizella breweri*); Small-footed Myotis (*Myotis ciliolabrum*); large mammal biodiversity

SSC Potential Occurrence (within habitat area): Hops Feeding Azure, American Badger, Big Brown Bat, Hoary Bat, Silver-haired Bat, Townsend's Big-eared Bat, Beaver, Indigo Bunting, Lazuli Bunting, Bushtit, Colorado Chipmunk, Uinta Chipmunk, Mottled Duskywing, Golden Eagle, American Emerald, Peregrine Falcon, Prairie Falcon, Northern Flicker, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Willow Flycatcher, Gray Fox, Regal Fritillary, Chorus Frog, Northern Pocket Gopher, Northern Goshawk, Northern Harrier, White-tailed Jackrabbit, Horned Lark, Northern Mockingbird, Northern Rock Mouse, Fringed Myotis, Little Brown Myotis, Long-eared Myotis, Long-legged Myotis, Ovenbird, Flammulated Owl, Long-eared Owl, Northern Pygmy Owl, Band-tailed Pigeon, North American Porcupine, American Redstart, Ringtail, Dwarf Shrew, Least Shrew, Merriam's Shrew, Northern Shrike, Pine Siskin, Two-banded Checkered Skipper, Two-spotted Skipper, Common Garter Snake, Milk Snake, Fox Sparrow, 13-lined Ground Squirrel, Plumbeous Vireo, Heather Vole, Meadow Vole, Virginia's Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, Cedar Waxwing, Rock Wren.

Threats to Species or Habitat: Moss's Elfin are negatively affected by habitat fragmentation, human encroachment and recreational activities in gulch areas, weed encroachment into host plant habitats, diversion or modification of water courses and associated host plant communities, and the potentially disruptive effects of some methods of prescribed fire. Lazuli Bunting is sensitive to removal or disturbance of shrubland breeding habitats. Northern Flicker are susceptible to habitat fragmentation which reduces the availability of their preferred terrestrial invertebrates and to practices which reduce the availability of trees with dead or diseased tree trunks for nesting. Plumbeous Vireo are sensitive to fragmentation of ponderosa pine habitats. Rock Wren are sensitive to practices which increase habitat fragmentation leading to increased nest parasitism or predation. Virginia's Warbler are vulnerable to forestry practices which may lead to increased cowbird parasitism and reduction of breeding success. Wilson's Warbler are sensitive to forestry, agricultural or recreational activities which reduce or fragment riparian habitats used for breeding. Northern Leopard Frog are vulnerable to destruction of wetland habitats, the invasion of bullfrogs due to habitat disturbance and subsequent predation or mortality from disease. Tiger Salamander are vulnerable to stocking or invasion of fish into previously fishless waterbodies; modification or destruction of wetland, seasonal or semipermanent aquatic habitats; conversion of terrestrial uplands adjacent to wetlands, which serve as burrowing substrate for juveniles, into urban development or agriculture production; endocrine and developmental disruption due to agricultural pesticides. Avian biodiversity is sensitive to fragmentation, loss of structural diversity or reduced habitat productivity. Brewer's Sparrow are vulnerable to alteration of high-elevation shrubland habitat. Small-footed Myotis are vulnerable to loss of roosting and breeding habitat by habitat fragmentation; increased recreational activities and development may increase the potential of human-transmitted White-Nosed Syndrome into winter colonies; bats accumulate toxins if found in prey near habitat. Large mammals are sensitive to human development and encroachment as well as habitat degradation. This site will be subjected to long-term heavy equipment presence and disturbance in the impending surface mine reclamation of the former quarry site between the two habitat areas.

Habitat Descriptions:

Habitat (General): Diverse and rugged montane shrub habitat and Ponderosa pine woodland following two drainages containing juniper and several fruiting shrubs.

Southwest Regional Gap Analysis Project Landcover Types: Rocky Mountain Lower Montane-Foothill Shrubland, Rocky Mountain Ponderosa Pine Woodland, Western Great Plains Foothill and Piedmont Grassland, Rocky Mountain Montane Dry-Mesic Mixed Conifer Forest and Woodland, Western Great Plains Riparian Woodland and Shrubland, Rocky Mountain Lower Montane Riparian Woodland and Shrubland, Rocky Mountain Montane Mesic Mixed Conifer Forest and Woodland.

Size: 214 acres

Elevation: 5518-6393 feet (Mean = 5882 feet)

Life Zone: Montane

Ownership: (Private: Public: X)

Comments: BCPOS Open Space.

Current Resource Protection and Management Designations:

See relevant BCPOS management plans.

Information Sources and References: Contact Boulder County Parks and Open Space Resource Management staff for a list of information sources and references compiled to create this Critical Wildlife Habitat description.

Critical Wildlife Habitat #82

Year Revised: New
Year Established: 2013

Common Name: B.L.I.P. and Lappin Pond

Critical Wildlife Habitat Criteria:

Vital SSC Habitat: ☒

Wildlife Concentration:

Unique Biodiversity:

Location (General): Located north of the city of Boulder, near the terminus of N 26th St.

Designation Description: Water sources (Boulder Land, Irrigation and Power ponds) which are supporting an introduced and monitored population of Plains Topminnow, a native fish species in decline and under ESA review by the USFWS.

Key Species:

SSC Known Occurrence: Plains Topminnow (*Fundulus sciadicus*)

SSC Potential Occurrence (within habitat area): American Avocet, Beaver, American Bittern, Least Bittern, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Double-crested Cormorant, Iowa Darter, Wood Duck, Bald Eagle, Great Egret, Giant Floater, Regal Fritillary, Chorus Frog, Northern Leopard Frog, Northern Harrier, Black-crowned Night Heron, Great Blue Heron, Belted Kingfisher, River Otter, Cylindrical Papershell, Tiger Salamander, Least Shrew, Common Garter Snake, Great Plains Toad, Spiny Softshell Turtle, Meadow Vole

Threats to Species or Habitat: Plains Topminnow are sensitive to siltation, loss of streamside vegetation or backwater breeding habitat, low-flow conditions, reduced water quality or increased water temperature and competition from exotic species such as the western mosquitofish (*Gambusia affinis*).

Habitat Descriptions:

Habitat (General): Two man-made ponds, both fed by separate intermittent streams; includes surrounding riparian and shrubland areas.

Southwest Regional Gap Analysis Project Landcover Types: Open Water, Agriculture, Western Great Plains Riparian Woodland and Shrubland, Rocky Mountain Ponderosa Pine Woodland, Rocky Mountain Lower Montane-Foothill Shrubland, Invasive Perennial Grassland.

Size: 12 acres

Elevation: 5315-5424 feet (Mean = 5347 feet)

Life Zone: Plains

Ownership: (Private: Public: ☒)

Comments: City of Boulder.

Current Resource Protection and Management Designations:

See the relevant city of Boulder management plan. BLIP was designated in OSMP's Visitor Master Plan (2005) as a Passive Recreation Area, where visitors can walk off-trail without a permit. Lappin was purchased in 2010 and is closed to the public until a management plan is complete.

Information Sources and References: Contact Boulder County Parks and Open Space Resource Management staff for a list of information sources and references compiled to create this Critical Wildlife Habitat description.

Critical Wildlife Habitat #83

Year Revised: New
Year Established: 2013

Common Name: Geer Meadows

Critical Wildlife Habitat Criteria:

Vital SSC Habitat:

Wildlife Concentration: ☒

Unique Biodiversity:

Location (General): Located on Heil Valley Ranch, due west of the terminus of Geer Canyon Dr.

Designation Description: Open meadows interspersed with Ponderosa Pine pockets and water sources supporting a unique concentration of Elk and Elk rutting. The meadows also support a diversity of butterflies, including the Dusted Skipper. American Marten are known to occur in this area.

Key Species:

SSC Known Occurrence: Elk (*Cervus elaphus*) concentration; Dusted Skipper (*Atrytonopsis hianna*); American Marten (*Martes americana*); Butterfly concentration

SSC Potential Occurrence (within habitat area): American Badger, Big Brown Bat, Brazilian Free-tailed Bat, Hoary Bat, Silver-haired Bat, Townsend's Big-eared Bat, Tricolored Bat, Prairie Tiger Beetle, Indigo Bunting, Lazuli Bunting, Bushtit, Colorado Chipmunk, Uinta Chipmunk, Mottled Duskywing, Golden Eagle, Moss's Elf, American Emerald, Peregrine Falcon, Prairie Falcon, Northern Flicker, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Willow Flycatcher, Gray Fox, Regal Fritillary, Chorus Frog, Northern Leopard Frog, Northern Pocket Gopher, Northern Goshawk, Northern Harrier, White-tailed Jackrabbit, Rocky Mountain Arctic Jutta, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Short Horned Lizard, American Marten, Northern Rock Mouse, Fringed Myotis, Little Brown Myotis, Long-legged Myotis, Western Small-footed Myotis, Flammulated Owl, Long-eared Owl, Mexican Spotted Owl, Northern Pygmy Owl, Band-tailed Pigeon, North American Porcupine, American Redstart, Williamson's Sapsucker, Western Scrub-Jay, American Water Shrew, Dwarf Shrew, Least Shrew, Merriam's Shrew, Snow's Skipper, Two-banded Checkered Skipper, Two-spotted Skipper, Common Garter Snake, Milk Snake, Brewer's Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Sage Thrasher, Plumbeous Vireo, Heather Vole, Meadow Vole, Virginia's Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, Cedar Waxwing, American Three-toed Woodpecker, Lewis's Woodpecker, Red-headed Woodpecker

Threats to Species or Habitat: Elk are sensitive to human development and encroachment as well as habitat degradation. Dusted Skipper and other butterflies are negatively affected by the reduction of prairie habitat size and fragmentation, weed encroachment into host plant habitats, diversion or modification of water courses and associated host plant communities, and the potentially disruptive effects of some methods of prescribed fire. American Marten are vulnerable to loss of subnivean sites, such as coarse woody debris piles, used as winter habitat; removal of standing or fallen snags or hollow trees; responds negatively to fluctuations in small mammal prey (i.e. voles) which can be influenced by forest management practices or recreational activities which increase fragmentation. This area contains an access road to several residences adjacent to the area.

Habitat Descriptions:

Habitat (General): Ponderosa woodland with open meadows, grassland areas and shrublands.

Southwest Regional Gap Analysis Project Landcover Types: Rocky Mountain Ponderosa Pine Woodland, Western Great Plains Foothill and Piedmont Grassland, Agriculture, Rocky Mountain Lower Montane-Foothill Shrubland, Rocky Mountain Montane Mesic Mixed Conifer Forest and Woodland.

Size: 193 acres

Elevation: 6126-6616 feet (Mean = 6370 feet)

Life Zone: Montane

Ownership: (Private: Public: ☒)

Comments: BCPOS Open Space and USFS.

Current Resource Protection and Management Designations:

See relevant BCPOS management plans. See the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests Land and Resource Management Plan.

Information Sources and References: Contact Boulder County Parks and Open Space Resource Management staff for a list of information sources and references compiled to create this Critical Wildlife Habitat description.

Critical Wildlife Habitat #84

Year Revised: New
Year Established: 2013

Common Name: Red Hill

Critical Wildlife Habitat Criteria:

Vital SSC Habitat: X

Wildlife Concentration: X

Unique Biodiversity: X

Location (General): Located along east side of Heil Valley Ranch, roughly within an area from Highland Dr. on the north to Nelson Rd. on the south. Encompasses portions of Red Hill and Loukonen-Dairy Farm.

Designation Description: This area represents foothills transition zone habitats with extensive shrub communities, including riparian corridors. This region serves as critical elk foraging and wintering grounds and supports an overall diversity of large mammals. It includes Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse habitat, areas of rare butterfly concentration and high avian biodiversity.

Key Species:

SSC Known Occurrence: Elk (*Cervus elaphus*) concentration; Large Mammal biodiversity; High Avian biodiversity; Rare Butterfly concentration; Arogos Skipper (*Atrytone arogos*); Dusted Skipper (*Atrytonopsis hianna*); Horned Lark (*Eremophila alpestris*); Western Scrub-Jay (*Aphelocoma californica*); Lazuli Bunting (*Passerina amoena*)

SSC Potential Occurrence (within habitat area): Prairie Falcon, Northern Harrier, Ferruginous Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, Short-eared Owl, Loggerhead Shrike, Cassin's Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, Cross-line Skipper, Dusted Skipper, Ottoo Skipper, Rhesus Skipper, Simius Roadside Skipper, American Badger, Brazilian Free-tailed Bat, Northern Grasshopper Mouse, Plains Harvest Mouse, Plains Pocket Mouse, Black-tailed Prairie Dog, Ord's Kangaroo Rat, Thirteen-lined Ground Squirrel, Lined Snake, Milk Snake

Threats to Species or Habitat: Elk and other large mammals are sensitive to human development and encroachment as well as habitat degradation. Avian biodiversity is sensitive to fragmentation, loss of structural diversity or reduced habitat productivity. Arogos Skipper and Dusted Skipper and other butterflies are negatively affected by the reduction of prairie habitat size and fragmentation, weed encroachment into host plant habitats, diversion or modification of water courses and associated host plant communities, and the potentially disruptive effects of some methods of prescribed fire; Arogos Skipper is especially threatened by chemicals used to control leafy spurge, Canada thistle and grasshoppers. Horned Lark are a ground nesting species vulnerable to the conversion of shortgrass prairie to agriculture or development. Western Scrub-jay are vulnerable to loss of shrublands such as Scrub-oak and mountain mahogany or dense stands of pinyon pine. Lazuli Bunting is sensitive to removal or disturbance of shrubland breeding habitats. The area is bisected by US36 which presents both a barrier and mortality source for elk and other large mammals (bears, cougars). The eastern portions of the property contains several residences, and active agriculture and ditches.

Habitat Descriptions:

Habitat (General): Large, contiguous shrub communities, shortgrass prairie, and Ponderosa pine woodlands. Several intermittent streams and riparian corridors.

Southwest Regional Gap Analysis Project Landcover Types: Western Great Plains Foothill and Piedmont Grassland, Invasive Perennial Grassland, Rocky Mountain Lower Montane-Foothill Shrubland, Rocky Mountain Ponderosa Pine Woodland, Agriculture, Western Great Plains Shortgrass Prairie, Western Great Plains Riparian Woodland and Shrubland, Western Great Plains Floodplain Herbaceous Wetland, Rocky Mountain Montane Mesic Mixed Conifer Forest and Woodland.

Size: 3999 acres

Elevation: 5279-6567 feet (Mean = 5748 feet)

Life Zone: Montane

Ownership: (Private: X Public: X)

Comments: BCPOS Open Space and CE.

Current Resource Protection and Management Designations:

See relevant BCPOS management plans.

Information Sources and References: Contact Boulder County Parks and Open Space Resource Management staff for a list of information sources and references compiled to create this Critical Wildlife Habitat description.

Critical Wildlife Habitat #85

Year Revised: New
Year Established: 2013

Common Name: Coffintop Mountain

Critical Wildlife Habitat Criteria:

Vital SSC Habitat: X

Wildlife Concentration:

Unique Biodiversity:

Location (General): Located on Coffintop Mt. west of Hall Ranch on US Forest Service Core Habitat Area, east of Riverside Ranch.

Designation Description: Rocky outcrops within ponderosa pine that support Townsend's Big-eared Bat maternity roosts.

Key Species:

SSC Known Occurrence: Townsend's Big Eared Bat (*Corynorhinus townsendii*, maternity site)

SSC Potential Occurrence (within habitat area): Big Brown Bat, Hoary Bat, Silver-haired Bat, Lazuli Bunting, Lake Darter, Moss's Elf, American Emerald, Northern Flicker, Northern Goshawk, American Marten, Northern Rock Mouse, Little Brown Myotis, Western Small-footed Myotis, Flammulated Owl, Long-eared Owl, Northern Pygmy Owl, North American Porcupine, Pine Siskin, Snow's Skipper, Two-banded Checkered Skipper, Two-spotted Skipper, Plumbeous Vireo, Virginia's Warbler, Rock Wren

Threats to Species or Habitat: Townsend's Big Eared Bat are vulnerable to loss of roosting and breeding habitat by habitat fragmentation and by human disturbance of roost sites; increased recreational activities and development may increase the potential of human-transmitted White-Nosed Syndrome into winter colonies; bats accumulate toxins if found in prey near habitat.

Habitat Descriptions:

Habitat (General): Ponderosa pine woodlands and rocky outcroppings.

Southwest Regional Gap Analysis Project Landcover Types: Rocky Mountain Ponderosa Pine Woodland, Rocky Mountain Montane Mesic Mixed Conifer Forest and Woodland, Rocky Mountain Montane Dry-Mesic Mixed Conifer Forest and Woodland.

Size: 256 acres

Elevation: 7237-8044 feet (Mean = 7568 feet)

Life Zone: Montane

Ownership: (Private: Public: X)

Comments: USFS.

Current Resource Protection and Management Designations:

See the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests Land and Resource Management Plan.

Information Sources and References: Contact Boulder County Parks and Open Space Resource Management staff for a list of information sources and references compiled to create this Critical Wildlife Habitat description.

Critical Wildlife Habitat #86

Year Revised: New
Year Established: 2013

Common Name: Powers Marsh

Critical Wildlife Habitat Criteria:

Vital SSC Habitat: ☒

Wildlife Concentration:

Unique Biodiversity:

Location (General): Located on the east side of the town of Lafayette near the eastern Boulder County border, at the intersection of SH7 and East County Line Rd.

Designation Description: This site is the largest remaining, naturally occurring wetland in the east side of the county. Supports nesting of rare wetland-associated avians species such as Northern Harrier and Least Bittern. The size and location of this habitat represents a vital habitat source for wetland-associated amphibian and reptile species in the plains region of the county.

Key Species:

SSC Known Occurrence: Northern Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*); Least Bittern (*Ixobrychus exilis*)

SSC Potential Occurrence (within habitat area): Chorus Frog, Northern Leopard Frog, Great Plains Toad, American Avocet, American Bittern, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Great Egret, Black-crowned Night Heron, Great Blue Heron, Regal Fritillary, Least Shrew, Meadow Vole, Common Garter Snake

Threats to Species or Habitat: Northern Harrier is especially vulnerable due to nesting habitat declines and foraging habitat in and around wetlands due to land conversion and recreational use; this is a candidate for the most imperiled avian species in Boulder County. Least Bittern are vulnerable to the development and loss of dense wetland breeding/feeding habitat and human encroachment.

Habitat Descriptions:

Habitat (General): Large wetland embedded in agricultural area. Water source (apparently) via un-named channel connecting to Coal Creek.

Southwest Regional Gap Analysis Project Landcover Types: Western Great Plains Floodplain Herbaceous Wetland, Agriculture, Western Great Plains Riparian, Woodland and Shrubland, Open Water.

Size: 64 acres

Elevation: 5093-5117 feet (Mean = 5106 feet)

Life Zone: Plains

Ownership: (Private: ☒ Public: ☐)

Comments: Private property.

Current Resource Protection and Management Designations:

Information Sources and References: Contact Boulder County Parks and Open Space Resource Management staff for a list of information sources and references compiled to create this Critical Wildlife Habitat description.

Critical Wildlife Habitat #87

Year Revised: New
Year Established: 2013

Common Name: Quicksilver

Critical Wildlife Habitat Criteria:

Vital SSC Habitat: ☒

Wildlife Concentration:

Unique Biodiversity:

Location (General): Located on the east side of the town of Longmont near the eastern Boulder County border, at the intersection of N 119th St. and Quicksilver Rd.

Designation Description: Riparian corridor of large cottonwoods and adjacent prairie dog colony supporting Bald Eagle nesting.

Key Species:

SSC Known Occurrence: Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*); Black Tailed Prairie Dog (*Cynomys ludovicianus*)

SSC Potential Occurrence (within habitat area): American Badger, Big Brown Bat, Brazilian Free-tailed Bat, Eastern Red Bat, Hoary Bat, Tricolored Bat, Beaver, Indigo Bunting, Lark Bunting, Iowa Darter, Prairie Falcon, Northern Flicker, Chorus Frog, Northern Pocket Gopher, Northern Harrier, Rough-legged Hawk, Great Blue Heron, Belted Kingfisher, Horned Lark, Northern Grasshopper Mouse, Plains Harvest Mouse, Little Brown Myotis, River Otter, Burrowing Owl, Long-eared Owl, Ord's Kangaroo Rat, American Redstart, Dwarf Shrew, Many-lined Skink, Arogos Skipper, Cross-line Skipper, Dusted Skipper, Ottoe Skipper, Rhesus Skipper, Simius Roadside Skipper, Common Garter Snake, Lined Snake, Milk Snake, Thirteen-lined Ground Squirrel, Cedar Waxwing, Red-headed Woodpecker

Threats to Species or Habitat: Bald Eagle are vulnerable to nest site encroachment and destruction of nesting trees, contamination of prey from pesticides and loss of prey base due to large-scale pest control programs. Black Tailed Prairie Dogs are vulnerable to direct population declines from large-scale pest control programs and outbreaks of sylvatic plague, as well as conversion of prairie habitat to agriculture, urban development or recreational uses. This area is subject to livestock grazing and also contains a residence along Quicksilver Road.

Habitat Descriptions:

Habitat (General): Riparian zone along St. Vrain Creek consisting of large cottonwoods; grassland and horse pasture.

Southwest Regional Gap Analysis Project Landcover Types: Agriculture Agriculture, Invasive Perennial Grassland, Western Great Plains Shortgrass Prairie, Western Great Plains Floodplain Herbaceous Wetland, Western Great Plains Riparian Woodland and Shrubland, Western Great Plains Foothill and Piedmont Grassland, Western Great Plains Riparian Woodland and Shrubland, Western Great Plains Floodplain Herbaceous Wetland..

Size: 182 acres

Elevation: 4893-4915 feet (Mean = 4904 feet)

Life Zone: Plains

Ownership: (Private: ☒ Public: ☒)

Comments: BCPOS Open Space, city of Longmont and private property.

Current Resource Protection and Management Designations:

See relevant BCPOS management plans.

Information Sources and References: Contact Boulder County Parks and Open Space Resource Management staff for a list of information sources and references compiled to create this Critical Wildlife Habitat description.

Critical Wildlife Habitat #88

Year Revised: New
Year Established: 2013

Common Name: Gunbarrel Hill

Critical Wildlife Habitat Criteria:

Vital SSC Habitat: X

Wildlife Concentration:

Unique Biodiversity: X

Location (General): Located NE of the city of Boulder, at the intersection of Lookout Rd. and N 75th St.

Designation Description: A region of restored, mixed grass prairie habitat supporting Black Tailed Prairie Dogs and their associated species, including nesting Burrowing Owl and predacious raptors such as Golden Eagle and Ferruginous Hawk.

Key Species:

SSC Known Occurrence: Grasshopper Sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum*); Burrowing Owl (*Athene cunicularia*); Black Tailed Prairie Dog (*Cynomys ludovicianus*); Ferruginous Hawk (*Buteo regalis*); Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*)

SSC Potential Occurrence (within habitat area): American Badger, Big Brown Bat, Brazilian Free-tailed Bat, Tricolored Bat, Colorado Blue, Colorado Chipmunk, Northern Flicker, Northern Pocket Gopher, Rough-legged Hawk, Horned Lark, Northern Grasshopper Mouse, Olive-back Pocket Mouse, Plains Harvest Mouse, Plains Pocket Mouse, Silky Pocket Mouse, Short-eared Owl, Ord's Kangaroo Rat, Loggerhead Shrike, Arogos Skipper, Cross-line Skipper, Dusted Skipper, Ottoe Skipper, Rhesus Skipper, Simius Roadside Skipper, Lined Snake, Milk Snake, Cassin's Sparrow, Thirteen-lined Ground Squirrel.

Threats to Species or Habitat: Grasshopper Sparrow is vulnerable to conversion of pastureland to cropland, mowing practices that are unprotective of nesting areas, and urban development leading to predation by domestic animals. Burrowing Owl nesting is sensitive to the loss of nesting sites due to prairie dog declines, disturbance due to urbanization or recreational use of nesting areas, and pesticide use to control pest species which are consumed by the owls. Black Tailed Prairie Dogs are vulnerable to direct population declines from large-scale pest control programs and outbreaks of sylvatic plague, as well as conversion of prairie habitat to agriculture, urban development or recreational uses. Ferruginous Hawk are vulnerable to conversion of prairie grassland to cropland and urban development, as well as impacts from increased recreational use; loss of prairie dog colonies due to pest control programs or impact of widespread sylvatic plague mortality. Golden Eagle are vulnerable to human encroachment near their nests sites during the breeding season, such as from climbing; disturbances can result in nest abandonment and negatively impact recruitment rates and population trends. Portions of this area are subject to heavy recreational pressure, on and off-trail, on an extensive neighborhood trail system. Potential disturbance from oil and gas facilities.

Habitat Descriptions:

Habitat (General): Restored shortgrass prairie intermixed with agriculture.

Southwest Regional Gap Analysis Project Landcover Types: Agriculture, Invasive Perennial Grassland, Western Great Plains Shortgrass Prairie, Western Great Plains Foothill and Piedmont Grassland, Rocky Mountain Lower Montane-Foothill Shrubland, Western Great Plains Sandhill Shrubland..

Size: 1140 acres

Elevation: 5194-5421 feet (Mean = 5337 feet)

Life Zone: Plains

Ownership: (Private: Public: X)

Comments: City of Boulder and BCPOS Open Space.

Current Resource Protection and Management Designations:

See relevant BCPOS and city of Boulder management plans. Portions of the area are closed between March 15- Oct 15 to protect nesting burrowing owls. The area on City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks properties is designated a Grassland Preserve related to management of Black-tailed Prairie Dogs.

Information Sources and References: Contact Boulder County Parks and Open Space Resource Management staff for a list of information sources and references compiled to create this Critical Wildlife Habitat description.

Critical Wildlife Habitat #89

Year Revised: New
Year Established: 2013

Common Name: South Boulder Creek Floodplain and Terrace

Critical Wildlife Habitat Criteria:

Vital SSC Habitat: X

Wildlife Concentration:

Unique Biodiversity:

Location (General): Located SE of the city of Boulder, generally encompassing an area of South Boulder Creek located between Baseline Road and Eldorado Springs.

Designation Description: Riparian corridor, wet meadow and creek habitat which supports nesting, feeding and resting areas for several imperiled species of special concern including the Northern Leopard Frog and Plains Topminnow. Federally designated Critical Habitat for the Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse.

Key Species:

SSC Known Occurrence: Bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*); Northern Leopard Frog (*Rana pipiens*); Chorus frog (*Pseudacris triseriata*); Tiger Salamander (*Ambystoma tigrinum*); Two-spotted Skipper (*Euphyes bimaculata*); Plains Topminnow (*Fundulus sciadicus*); Northern Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*); Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse (*Zapus hudsonius preblei*)*

SSC Potential Occurrence (within habitat area): American Avocet, Hops Feeding Azure, American Beaver; American Badger, Brazilian Free-tailed Bat, Townsend's Big-eared Bat, Beaver, American Bittern, Least Bittern, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Colorado Blue, Indigo Bunting, Lark Bunting, Lazuli Bunting, Bushtit, Colorado Chipmunk, Uinta Chipmunk, Hornyhead Chub, Iowa Darter, Johnny Darter, Mottled Duskywing, Golden Eagle, Great Egret, Moss's Elfin, Prairie Falcon, Peregrine Falcon, Northern Flicker, Giant Floater, Willow Flycatcher, Gray Fox, Regal Fritillary, Northern Pocket Gopher, Ferruginous Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, Black-crowned Night Heron, Great Blue Heron, White-tailed Jackrabbit, Belted Kingfisher, Horned Lark, Short Horned Lizard, Brassy Minnow, Northern Mockingbird, Northern Grasshopper Mouse, Olive-back Pocket Mouse, Plains Harvest Mouse, Plains Pocket Mouse, Silky Pocket Mouse, Fringed Myotis, Little Brown Myotis, Western Small-footed Myotis, River Otter, Burrowing Owl, Short-eared Owl, Cylindrical Papershell, Banded Phoebe, Band-tailed Pigeon, North American Porcupine, Black-tailed Prairie Dog, Ord's Kangaroo Rat, American Redstart, Western Scrub-Jay, Bigmouth Shiner, Common Shiner, Dwarf Shrew, Least Shrew, Merriam's Shrew, Loggerhead Shrike, Arogos Skipper, Cross-line Skipper, Dusted Skipper, Otter Skipper, Rhesus Skipper, Simius Roadside Skipper, Common Garter Snake, Lined Snake, Milk Snake, Brewer's Sparrow, Cassin's Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, Spotted Ground Squirrel, Thirteen-lined Ground Squirrel, Stonecat, Sage Thrasher, Great Plains Toad, Plains Spadefoot Toad, Plain's Topminnow, Spiny Softshell Turtle, Veery, Plumbeous Vireo, Heather Vole, Meadow Vole, Virginia's Warbler, Cedar Waxwing, Blue-winged Dancer, Wood Duck, Bald Eagle, Belted Kingfisher, American Redstart, Red-headed Woodpecker, Big Brown Bat, Eastern Red Bat, Hoary Bat, Tricolored Bat

Threats to Species or Habitat: Bobolink are affected by early cutting of hayfields during peak nesting periods and habitat loss due to land conversion (esp. meadows and prairies). Northern Leopard Frog are vulnerable to destruction of wetland habitats, the invasion of bullfrogs due to habitat disturbance and subsequent predation or mortality from disease. Chorus Frog are sensitive to agricultural practices which use pesticides, herbicides or fertilizers in the habitat, and vulnerable to loss of aquatic habitat quality. Tiger Salamander are vulnerable to stocking or invasion of fish into previously fishless waterbodies; modification or destruction of wetland, seasonal or semipermanent aquatic habitats; conversion of terrestrial uplands adjacent to wetlands, which serve as burrowing substrate for juveniles, into urban development or agriculture production; endocrine and developmental disruption due to agricultural pesticides. Two-spotted Skipper are extremely sensitive to human encroachment and are negatively affected by the reduction of marsh habitat size, conversion to wet pasture or the effects of fragmentation; loss of tall stalks in open sedge marshes, weed encroachment into host plant habitats, diversion or modification of water courses and associated host plant communities, and the potentially disruptive effects of some methods of prescribed fire. Plains Topminnow are sensitive to siltation, loss of streamside vegetation or backwater breeding habitat, low-flow conditions, reduced water quality or increased water temperature and

competition from exotic species such as the western mosquitofish (*Gambusia affinis*). Northern Harrier are a ground-nesting species vulnerable to loss of abundant, dense vegetation used for nesting cover, especially in wetlands; urbanization which increases predation of nesting sites by domesticated and urban-adapted wildlife; habitat loss, which reduces native small mammals used as prey, caused by such land uses as large-scale agriculture and expanding urbanization. Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse are sensitive to riparian fragmentation and loss of structural diversity of the vegetation (e.g. shrubs). South Boulder Creek is paralleled by open space trail and is also subject to fishing pressure.

Habitat Descriptions:

Habitat (General): South Boulder Creek, including riparian habitat of cottonwood and willows, adjacent wet meadows, small ponds, irrigated flood terrace hayfields and vegetated ditches.

Southwest Regional Gap Analysis Project Landcover Types: Agriculture, Western Great Plains Floodplain Herbaceous Wetland, Western Great Plains Riparian Woodland and Shrubland, Developed, Open Space - Low Intensity, Western Great Plains Foothill and Piedmont Grassland, Invasive Perennial Grassland, Open Water, Developed, Medium - High Intensity, Rocky Mountain Lower Montane-Foothill Shrubland.

Size: 1270 acres

Elevation: 5252-5531 feet (Mean = 5387 feet)

Life Zone: Plains

Ownership: (Private: ☒ Public: ☒)

Comments: City of Boulder and private property.

Current Resource Protection and Management Designations:

See the relevant city of Boulder management plan. Portions of the riparian area are fenced and closed to public access, other portions have controlled access. Dogs not allowed in section from South Boulder Road to Hwy 93. Entire stretch designated federally as Critical Habitat for Preble's meadow jumping mouse out to 140 m from stream. Designated as future Habitat Conservation Area under City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks Visitor Master Plan.

Information Sources and References: Contact Boulder County Parks and Open Space Resource Management staff for a list of information sources and references compiled to create this Critical Wildlife Habitat description.

Critical Wildlife Habitat #90

Year Revised: New
Year Established: 2013

Common Name: North Boulder Grasslands

Critical Wildlife Habitat Criteria:

Vital SSC Habitat: X

Wildlife Concentration:

Unique Biodiversity: X

Location (General): Located north of the city of Boulder, at the intersection of US36 and Longhorn Rd.

Designation Description: The North Boulder Grasslands consist of a series of hogbacks and drainages that flatten out into mixed grass prairie habitat supporting a variety of species of concern. Very high quality habitat supports a concentration of several rare butterfly species, such as the Ottoe Skipper.

Key Species:

SSC Known Occurrence: Grasshopper Sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum*); Black Tailed Prairie Dog (*Cynomys ludovicianus*); Ottoe Skipper (*Hesperia ottoe*); Arogos Skipper (*Atrytone arogos*); Cross-line Skipper (*Polites origenes*); Dusted Skipper (*Atrytonopsis hianna*); Rock Wren (*Salpinctes obsoletus*); Indigo Bunting (*Passerina cyanea*); Lazuli Bunting (*Passerina amoena*); Milk Snake (*Lampropeltis triangulum*)

SSC Potential Occurrence (within habitat area): American Badger, Big Brown Bat, Brazilian Free-tailed Bat, Townsend's Big-eared Bat, Tricolored Bat, Colorado Blue, Colorado Chipmunk, Mottled Duskywing, Golden Eagle, Regal Fritillary, Northern Pocket Gopher, Ferruginous Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, Western Scrub-jay, Horned Lark, Northern Mockingbird, Northern Grasshopper Mouse, Olive-back Pocket Mouse, Plains Harvest Mouse, Plains Pocket Mouse, Silky Pocket Mouse, Fringed Myotis, Western Small-footed Myotis, Burrowing Owl, Short-eared Owl, Ord's Kangaroo Rat, Common Garter Snake, Dwarf Shrew, Least Shrew, Merriam's Shrew, Loggerhead Shrike, Rhesus Skipper, Simius Roadside Skipper, Lined Snake, Cassin's Sparrow, Thirteen-lined Ground Squirrel, Rock Wren, Northern Rock Mouse.

Threats to Species or Habitat: Grasshopper Sparrow is vulnerable to conversion of pastureland to cropland, mowing practices that are unprotective of nesting areas, and urban development leading to predation by domestic animals. Black Tailed Prairie Dogs are vulnerable to direct population declines from large-scale pest control programs and outbreaks of sylvatic plague, as well as conversion of prairie habitat to agriculture, urban development or recreational uses. Ferruginous Hawk are vulnerable to conversion of prairie grassland to cropland and urban development, as well as impacts from increased recreational use; loss of prairie dog colonies due to pest control programs or impact of widespread sylvatic plague mortality. Ottoe Skipper, Arogos Skipper, Cross-line Skipper and Dusted Skipper are negatively affected by the reduction of prairie habitat size and fragmentation, weed encroachment into host plant habitats, diversion or modification of water courses and associated host plant communities, and the potentially disruptive effects of some methods of prescribed fire. Rock Wren are sensitive to practices which increase habitat fragmentation leading to increased nest parasitism or predation. Indigo Bunting are vulnerable to fragmentation or loss of riparian forest, shrub meadows, and edge of agricultural fields; specific threats include intensive agricultural practices, mowing of roadsides and fields, increased urbanization, construction of transmission towers which cause substantial mortality during migration, and vehicle collisions along roadside where breeding and singing occur. Lazuli Bunting is sensitive to removal or disturbance of shrubland breeding habitats. Milk Snake are vulnerable to direct mortality from human persecution due to mistaking it for the venomous massasauga rattlesnake due to its colour and tendency to vibrate its tail when disturbed; habitat loss due to urbanization, road construction and conversion of natural areas to agricultural uses.

Habitat Descriptions:

Habitat (General): Mixedgrass prairie, adjacent hogbacks and intermittent stream drainages.

Southwest Regional Gap Analysis Project Landcover Types: Western Great Plains Foothill and Piedmont Grassland, Invasive Perennial Grassland, Rocky Mountain Lower Montane-Foothill Shrubland, Rocky Mountain Ponderosa Pine Woodland, Western Great Plains Shortgrass Prairie, Western Great Plains Cliff and Outcrop.

Size: 1087 acres

Elevation: 5473-6681 feet (Mean = 5953 feet)

Life Zone: Plains

Ownership: (Private: ☒ Public: ☐)

Comments: City of Boulder and BCPOS Open Space and CE.

Current Resource Protection and Management Designations:

See relevant BCPOS and city of Boulder management plans. This area was designated in OSMP's Visitor Master Plan (2005) as a Habitat Conservation Area, where visitors require a permit to walk off-trail and dogs need to be leashed.

Information Sources and References: Contact Boulder County Parks and Open Space Resource Management staff for a list of information sources and references compiled to create this Critical Wildlife Habitat description.

Critical Wildlife Habitat #91

Year Revised: New
Year Established: 2013

Common Name: Bummer's Gulch

Critical Wildlife Habitat Criteria:

Vital SSC Habitat: X

Wildlife Concentration:

Unique Biodiversity:

Location (General): Located west of the city of Boulder, NE of the intersection between Boulder Canyon Dr. and Sugarloaf Rd.

Designation Description: Ponderosa Pine Forest and Woodland mixed with Montane-Foothill Shrubland supporting a concentration of Grey Fox and a rare type of Fence Lizard which may be endemic to this gulch.

Key Species:

SSC Known Occurrence: Fence Lizard (*Sceloporus undulatus*; rare type); Grey Fox (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*) concentration area

SSC Potential Occurrence (within habitat area): Big Brown Bat, Hoary Bat, Silver-haired Bat, Townsend's Big-eared Bat, Lazuli Bunting, Bushtit, Colorado Chipmunk, Mottled Duskywing, American Emerald, Peregrine Falcon, Northern Flicker, Northern Pocket Gopher, Northern Goshawk, Northern Rock Mouse, Fringed Myotis, Little Brown Myotis, Long-legged Myotis, Flammulated Owl, Long-eared Owl, Northern Pygmy Owl, North American Porcupine, Merriam's Shrew, Pine Siskin, Milk Snake, Plumbeous Vireo.

Threats to Species or Habitat: Fence Lizard are vulnerable to fragmentation of rocky habitats or the surrounding forest which increases the occurrence of predatory species; reduction of the habitat configuration in Bummer's Gulch may eliminate the conditions which created and maintain the rare phenotype of this population of this species. Grey Fox are sensitive to forest management, urbanization or recreational activities which reduce the distribution or quantity of its prey, particularly small mammals such as voles, mice or rabbits; Bummer's Gulch is a productive habitat for Grey Fox and land use decisions should consider impacts on habitat quality. This area contains the Bummer's Rock Trail and a portion of the access road to the water treatment plant.

Habitat Descriptions:

Habitat (General): South facing aspect interspersed with rocky outcrops, Ponderosa pine and shrublands.

Southwest Regional Gap Analysis Project Landcover Types: Rocky Mountain Ponderosa Pine Woodland, Rocky Mountain Lower Montane-Foothill Shrubland, Western Great Plains Foothill and Piedmont Grassland, Rocky Mountain Montane Dry-Mesic Mixed Conifer Forest and Woodland.

Size: 116 acres

Elevation: 5907-6647 feet (Mean = 6318 feet)

Life Zone: Montane

Ownership: (Private: Public: X)

Comments: BCPOS Open Space and CE and city of Boulder.

Current Resource Protection and Management Designations:

See relevant BCPOS and city of Boulder management plans.

Information Sources and References: Contact Boulder County Parks and Open Space Resource Management staff for a list of information sources and references compiled to create this Critical Wildlife Habitat description.

Critical Wildlife Habitat #92

Year Revised: New
Year Established: 2013

Common Name: Kenosha Heronry

Critical Wildlife Habitat Criteria:

Vital SSC Habitat: X

Wildlife Concentration: X

Unique Biodiversity:

Location (General): Located north of the town of Erie, near the corner of N 115th St. and Kenosha Rd.

Designation Description: Cottonwood gallery forest along Boulder Creek which acts with a limited number of other sites to support Great Blue Heron nesting, and likely other herons, in the county.

Key Species:

SSC Known Occurrence: Great Blue Heron (Ardea herodias)

SSC Potential Occurrence (within habitat area):

Threats to Species or Habitat: Great Blue Heron are sensitive to the loss of nest site trees or excessive site encroachment, and survival of adults and young depend on prey from nearby high quality aquatic habitats producing fish and amphibians. The site is subject to nearby ongoing oil and gas maintenance and possible future development. It also contains an active farming residence. The site will be subjected to protracted heavy equipment presence and construction in the upcoming Army Corps of Engineers stream redevelopment project (2014-2015).

Habitat Descriptions:

Habitat (General): Riparian woodland and shrubland along Boulder Creek.

Southwest Regional Gap Analysis Project Landcover Types: Western Great Plains Riparian Woodland and Shrubland.

Size: 7 acres

Elevation: 4984-4991 feet (Mean = 4989 feet)

Life Zone:

Ownership: (Private: Public: X)

Comments: BCPOS Open Space.

Current Resource Protection and Management Designations:

See relevant BCPOS management plans.

Information Sources and References: Contact Boulder County Parks and Open Space Resource Management staff for a list of information sources and references compiled to create this Critical Wildlife Habitat description.

Critical Wildlife Habitat #93

Year Revised: New
Year Established: 2013

Common Name: Upper Caribou Park Willow Carr Complex

Critical Wildlife Habitat Criteria:

Vital SSC Habitat: X

Wildlife Concentration:

Unique Biodiversity: X

Location (General): Located NW of the town of Nederland, occurring at the terminus of CR128 at Caribou Hill.

Designation Description: Willow carrs are important avian habitats comprising about 1% of the mountain landscape in Boulder County, having 2-3 times the breeding bird density as compared to adjacent habitats and supporting several avian and mammal species which are restricted to this habitat type. This site supports an active American Beaver colony and associated species. This new area combines and supercedes the old willow carr CWH's 48, 49, and 50 (Horseshoe Creek, Caribou Park, and Upper Caribou Park).

Key Species:

SSC Known Occurrence: Avian and Small Mammal biodiversity; American Beaver (*Castor canadensis*)

SSC Potential Occurrence (within habitat area):

Threats to Species or Habitat: Willow carrs are rare and sensitive habitats which are vulnerable to activities such as development, domestic animal grazing, and recreational activities such as OHV use, campgrounds or hiking trails placed inside the habitat, as well as construction of reservoirs, peat extraction and road construction. American Beaver are vulnerable to trapping for sport or direct removal of dams or individuals. This area is bisected by several roads, trails, and spurs, providing recreational (hiking and OHV) access: CR116J, CR128J, and USFS505.

Habitat Descriptions:

Habitat (General): Subalpine willow carr. Vegetation is dominated by willow and birch shrubs along with sedges and grasses. Site contains active beaver colony and associated ponds. An unnamed perennial stream flows through all willow carrs in this area, and site contains numerous small ponds.

Southwest Regional Gap Analysis Project Landcover Types: Rocky Mountain Aspen Forest and Woodland, Rocky Mountain Cliff and Canyon, Rocky Mountain Lodgepole Pine Forest, Rocky Mountain Subalpine Dry-Mesic Spruce-Fir Forest and Woodland, Rocky Mountain Subalpine Mesic Meadow, Rocky Mountain Subalpine Mesic Spruce-Fir Forest and Woodland, Rocky Mountain Subalpine-Montane Riparian Shrubland, Rocky Mountain Subalpine-Montane Riparian Woodland, Southern Rocky Mountain Montane-Subalpine Grassland.

Size: 1002 acres

Elevation: 9703-10664 feet (Mean = 9979 feet)

Life Zone: Subalpine

Ownership: (Private: X Public: X)

Comments: USFS and private property.

Current Resource Protection and Management Designations:

See the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests Land and Resource Management Plan.

Information Sources and References: Contact Boulder County Parks and Open Space Resource Management staff for a list of information sources and references compiled to create this Critical Wildlife Habitat description.

Critical Wildlife Habitat #94

Year Revised: New
Year Established: 2013

Common Name: North Foothills Elk Herd

Critical Wildlife Habitat Criteria:

Vital SSC Habitat:

Wildlife Concentration: ☒

Unique Biodiversity:

Location (General): Located north of Jamestown, generally occurring between Beaver Res. And Geer Canyon Drive.

Designation Description: One of three regions of known elk migration in the county. This corridor in the mountainous north side of the county connects the sub-alpine area near Beaver Reservoir to the lower montane elk habitats in the area of Geer Canyon.

Key Species:

SSC Known Occurrence: Elk (*Cervus elaphus*) and other migratory species

SSC Potential Occurrence (within habitat area):

Threats to Species or Habitat: Elk and other large mammals are sensitive to human development, forestry practices and recreational activities such as trail building, especially along known and well-established migration routes. Designated and protected migration routes are critical for migratory mammals to move in response to seasonal weather change or to complete breeding activities. The degradation of areas within the migration corridors, by such activities as building fences of excessive height, dense urban development, or high-use recreational trail establishment, will likely reduce the viability of elk herds in the county and could lead to greater wildlife conflict with existing mountain developments as elk may seek alternative and lower-quality routes in response to fragmentation of corridor habitat. This corridor contains several small mountain subdivisions and summer recreation camps. The western end is bisected by the Peak-to-Peak Highway (CO72), which serves as both a barrier and mortality source.

Habitat Descriptions:

Habitat (General):

Southwest Regional Gap Analysis Project Landcover Types: .

Size: 9132 acres

Elevation: 6022-9363 feet (Mean = 8170 feet)

Life Zone: Montane

Ownership: (Private: ☒ Public: ☒)

Comments: USFS, BCPOS Open Space and CE, state of Colorado and private property.

Current Resource Protection and Management Designations:

See relevant BCPOS management plans. See the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests Land and Resource Management Plan.

Information Sources and References: Contact Boulder County Parks and Open Space Resource Management staff for a list of information sources and references compiled to create this Critical Wildlife Habitat description.

Critical Wildlife Habitat #95

Year Revised: New
Year Established: 2013

Common Name: Winiger Ridge Elk Herd

Critical Wildlife Habitat Criteria:

Vital SSC Habitat:

Wildlife Concentration: X

Unique Biodiversity:

Location (General): Located south of the town of Nederland, generally occurring between Eldora Ski Resort and Twin Sisters Pk.

Designation Description: One of three regions of known elk migration in the county. This corridor connects sub-alpine habitats near the Lake Eldora Ski Resort to lower montane elk habitats in the area of Winiger Ridge/Walker Ranch.

Key Species:

SSC Known Occurrence: Elk (*Cervus elaphus*) and other migratory species

SSC Potential Occurrence (within habitat area):

Threats to Species or Habitat: Elk and other large mammals are sensitive to human development, forestry practices and recreational activities such as trail building, especially along known and well-established migration routes. Designated and protected migration routes are critical for migratory mammals to move in response to seasonal weather change or to complete breeding activities. The degradation of areas within the migration corridors, by such activities as building fences of excessive height, dense urban development, or high-use recreational trail establishment, will likely reduce the viability of elk herds in the county and could lead to greater wildlife conflict with existing mountain developments as elk may seek alternative and lower-quality routes in response to fragmentation of corridor habitat. The area contains numerous residences, several designated and undesignated USFS trails (including the very busy West Mag TH), and the very busy Magnolia Road (CR132) and Peak-to-Peak Highway (CO72).

Habitat Descriptions:

Habitat (General):

Southwest Regional Gap Analysis Project Landcover Types: .

Size: 7053 acres

Elevation: 7281-9459 feet (Mean = 8325 feet)

Life Zone: Montane

Ownership: (Private: X Public: X)

Comments: USFS, BCPOS Open Space and CE, city of Nederland, state of Colorado, city and county of Denver and private property.

Current Resource Protection and Management Designations:

See relevant BCPOS management plans. See the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests Land and Resource Management Plan.

Information Sources and References: Contact Boulder County Parks and Open Space Resource Management staff for a list of information sources and references compiled to create this Critical Wildlife Habitat description.

Critical Wildlife Habitat #96

Year Revised: New
Year Established: 2013

Common Name: Peewink Mountain Elk Herd

Critical Wildlife Habitat Criteria:

Vital SSC Habitat:

Wildlife Concentration: ☒

Unique Biodiversity:

Location (General): Located north of the town of Nederland, generally occurring between Caribou Ranch to Sugarloaf Mountain.

Designation Description: One of three regions of known elk migration in the county. This corridor connects sub-alpine and upper montane summer habitats near Caribou Ranch to lower montane wintering grounds in the area of Boulder Creek.

Key Species:

SSC Known Occurrence: Elk (*Cervus elaphus*) and other migratory species

SSC Potential Occurrence (within habitat area):

Threats to Species or Habitat: Elk and other large mammals are sensitive to human development, forestry practices and recreational activities such as trail building, especially along known and well-established migration routes. Designated and protected migration routes are critical for migratory mammals to move in response to seasonal weather change or to complete breeding activities. The degradation of areas within the migration corridors, by such activities as building fences of excessive height, dense urban development, or high-use recreational trail establishment, will likely reduce the viability of elk herds in the county and could lead to greater wildlife conflict with existing mountain developments as elk may seek alternative and lower-quality routes in response to fragmentation of corridor habitat. The area contains numerous residences, as well as the very busy Sugarloaf Road (CR122) and the Peak-to-Peak Highway (CO72).

Habitat Descriptions:

Habitat (General):

Southwest Regional Gap Analysis Project Landcover Types: .

Size: 5947 acres

Elevation: 7355-8876 feet (Mean = 8167 feet)

Life Zone: Montane

Ownership: (Private: ☒ Public: ☒)

Comments: BCPOS Open Space and CE, USFS, city of Boulder and private property.

Current Resource Protection and Management Designations:

See relevant BCPOS and city of Boulder management plans. See the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests Land and Resource Management Plan.

Information Sources and References: Contact Boulder County Parks and Open Space Resource Management staff for a list of information sources and references compiled to create this Critical Wildlife Habitat description.