

# Site Basic Report

7/11/2006

**Site Code BCD** S.USIDHP\*134

**Site Class** Standard site

**Name** KANIKSU MARSH

**Defining Managed Area** KANIKSU MARSH RNA

**State/Province** Idaho

**Directions** Kaniksu Marsh RNA is located on the west side of the lower Priest River in the Idaho Panhandle. Access to Kaniksu Marsh RNA is by State Route 57 about 22 miles (36 km) north of the town of Priest River, Idaho, or 1.2 miles (1.9 km) south of the junction of Route 57 with the Dickensheet Road to Coolin, Idaho. At this point follow a logging road southeastward along the edge of the bench above the marsh, and then an old, unimproved, narrow road for about one mile (1.6 km) from the highway to the eastern edge of the area. An alternative is to park at the point where the improved logging road takes off from State Route 57 and climb down the steep slope to the northeast into the RNA.

**Minimum Elevation:** 2,420 Feet 738 Meters

**Maximum Elevation:** 2,525 Feet 770 Meters

**Site Description** Kaniksu Marsh RNA consists of an undisturbed, 90-acre, crescent-shaped marsh and wet meadow, and adjacent forested slopes. Elevations in the RNA are low, ranging from 2420 feet (738 m) to 2525 feet (770 m). Open water less than six feet deep, with submergent aquatic plants, surrounds an "island" of emergent vegetation at the lower end of the marsh. The central portion of the marsh ranges from shallow water to saturated soil with sedges and rushes interspersed with beaver ponds. This habitat grades into *Picea-Tsuga* bog and *Sphagnum* bog to progressively drier sites with margins of *Betula glandulosa* and *Alnus* and a forest setting at the upper end. The old-growth and second-growth forests are composed of *Pinus ponderosa*, *Pinus monticola*, *Larix occidentalis*, *Abies grandis*, *Pseudotsuga menziesii*, *Tsuga heterophylla*, *Thuja plicata*, *Picea engelmannii*, and *Pinus contorta*. A number of rare plants are associated with the wetlands in the RNA, including *Eriophorum viridicarinatum*, *Gaultheria hispidula*, *Lycopodiella inundata*, *Trientalis europaea* ssp. *arctica*, and *Vaccinium oxycoccos*.

**Key Environmental Factors** The RNA occupies a depression in glaciofluvial terrace deposits of Quaternary age in the Priest River valley near the confluence with the Upper West Branch. The crescent-shaped nature of the depression suggests that this may be the site of a river oxbow formed during an early, post-glacial or interglacial stage in the development of the Priest River. The site is now 80-100 feet (24-30 m) higher than the river. Water is supplied from subsurface strata and from surface runoff. Overland flow out of the marsh is blocked by a moraine. Activities of beaver (*Castor canadensis*) in the RNA have affected the water level in places.

**Climate Description** The climate of the area exhibits a strong Pacific maritime influence with 60% of the annual precipitation falling as snow during the winter. Cold, dry polar air often invades the area for short durations, resulting in low temperature extremes. Thunderstorms are common during the summer.

**Land Use History** Timber stands around the marsh were lightly cut for selected pine and western redcedar poles, probably shortly after World War II. This disturbance was minimal.

**Cultural Features** There are no known presettlement cultural features within the site.

**Site Mapped** Y - Yes

**Mapped Date**

**Designer** Savage, N. L., and C. A. Wellner

**Boundary Justification** The boundaries were drawn to encompass the marsh and associated forested slopes. The boundaries follow logging roads and benches surrounding the marsh.

**Primary and Secondary Area** 195.00 Acres 78.91 Hectares

**Primary Area** 176.54 Acres 71.44 Hectares

**Site Comments**

**Biodiversity Significance**

B1 - Outstanding

**Biodiversity Significance Comments**

The low-elevation wetlands in the RNA support a diversity of vegetation, including at least 16 rare plant species.

**Other Values**

V2 - High values

**Other Values Comments**

The marsh supports a variety of wildlife, including beaver and waterfowl. The western painted turtle (*Chrysemys picta*) has also been observed in the area.

**Protection Urgency**

P5 - No action to be taken on this site

**Protection Urgency Comments**

The site is an established Research Natural Area.

**Management Urgency**

M4 - Not needed now; no current threats; may need in future

**Management Urgency Comments**

No major threats to the RNA have been identified.

**Conservation Intentions**

The site has been protected by designation as a Forest Service Research Natural Area.

**Protection Comments**

The site is an established Research Natural Area.

**Land Use Comments**

Kaniksu Marsh RNA is allocated to Management Area 14 in the Idaho Panhandle National Forests Plan (August 1987). Recreational use of the area is extremely minimal.

**Natural Hazard Comments**

**Exotics Comments**

Dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*) and bull thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*) are invading at the southeast end of the marsh and Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*) grows on the edges of the wetlands.

**Offsite**

The RNA is entirely surrounded by Forest Service lands within Management Area 4 - lands designated for timber production within big game winter range. These lands are managed to provide winter forage to support existing and projected big game populations through scheduled timber harvest and permanent forage areas.

**Information Needs**

**Management Needs**

**Managed Area Relations**

The entire site is publicly owned and managed by the Panhandle National Forests, Priest Lake RD.

<u>Element ID</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Common Name</u>	<u>G-Rank</u>	<u>S-Rank</u>
6991	<i>Lycopodium dendroideum</i>	Groundpine	G5	S2
6917	<i>Eriophorum viridicarinatum</i>	Green Keeled Cotton-grass	G5	S2
7498	<i>Carex cusickii</i>	Cusicks sedge	GQ	S3
6637	<i>Vaccinium oxycoccos</i>	Bog Cranberry	G5	S2
6924	<i>Schoenoplectus subterminalis</i>	Water Clubrush	G4G5	S3
7271	<i>Alnus incana/Carex utriculata</i>	mountain alder/bladder sedge	G3	S2
6988	<i>Dryopteris cristata</i>	Crested Shield-fern	G5	S2
6920	<i>Rhynchospora alba</i>	White Beakrush	G5	S2
7094	<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii/Physocarpus malvaceus</i>	Douglas fir/mountain ninebark	G5	S5
6888	<i>Carex chordorrhiza</i>	String-root Sedge	G5	S2
16998	<i>Carex magellanica ssp. irrigua</i>	Poor Sedge	G5T5	S2
6620	<i>Hypericum majus</i>	Large Canadian St. John's-wort	G5	S3
6747	<i>Epilobium palustre</i>	Swamp Willow-weed	G5	S3
7546	<i>Poor fen</i>	poor fen	G4	S1
6826	<i>Salix pedicellaris</i>	Bog Willow	G5	S2
7487	<i>Valley peatland Pond</i>	valley peatland pond	G5	S2
6980	<i>Scheuchzeria palustris</i>	Pod Grass	G5	S2
7109	<i>Tsuga heterophylla/Clintonia uniflora</i>	western hemlock/clintonia	G4	S4
6542	<i>Betula pumila</i>	Swamp Birch	G5	S2
6993	<i>Lycopodiella inundata</i>	Northern Bog Clubmoss	G5	S2
6636	<i>Gaultheria hispidula</i>	Creeping Snowberry	G5	S2
7426	<i>Carex lasiocarpa</i>	slender sedge	G4	S2
6905	<i>Carex rostrata</i>	Beaked Sedge	G5	S2
7249	<i>Betula glandulosa/Carex utriculata</i>	bog birch/bladder sedge	G4?	S3
7033	<i>Abies grandis/Clintonia uniflora</i>	grand fir/clintonia	G5	S3
6899	<i>Carex leptalea</i>	Bristle-stalked Sedge	G5	S2

5812	<i>Lynx canadensis</i>	Lynx	G5	S1
6804	<i>Trientalis arctica</i>	Northern Starflower	G5T5	S3
6438	<i>Cicuta bulbifera</i>	Bulb-bearing Waterhemlock	G5	S2
6517	<i>Petasites sagittatus</i>	Arrowleaf Coltsfoot	G5	S3
7495	<i>Paludified Forest</i>	paludified forest	G5	S1
6405	<i>Cetraria sepincola</i>		G5	S2
7488	<i>Valley peatland Floating Mat</i>	valley peatland floating mat	G3	S1

**Reference Code**

**Full Citation**

A95BUR01IDUS	Bursik, R. J., and D. M. Henderson. 1995. Valley peatland flora of Idaho. Madrono 42(3): 366-395.
U95BUR01IDUS	Bursik, R. J., and R. K. Moseley. 1995. Ecosystem conservation strategy for Idaho Panhandle peatlands. Cooperative project between Idaho Panhandle National Forests and Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Conservation Data Center, Boise. 28 pp. plus appendix.
A94RAB01IDUS	Rabe, F. W., and S. W. Chadde. 1994. Classification of aquatic and semiaquatic wetland natural areas in Idaho and western Montana. Natural Areas Journal 14(3): 175 - 187.
U92BUR01IDUS	Bursik, R. J. 1992. Field investigations of sensitive plant taxa occurring on the Priest Lake Ranger District, Kanisku National Forest, Idaho Panhandle National Forests. Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Conservation Data Center, Boise. 141 pp. plus appendices.
U90BUR01IDUS	Bursik, R. 1990. Floristic and phytogeographic analysis of northwestern Rocky Mountain peatlands, U.S.A. Unpublished thesis, University of Idaho, Moscow. 37 pp.
B90RAB01IDUS	Rabe, F. W., R. J. Bursik, and E. B. Cantor. 1990. Classification and monitoring of wetlands in selected areas of the Pacific Northwest. University of Idaho, Moscow. 209 pp.
U88CAI04IDUS	Caicco, S. L. 1988. Studies in the genus Carex on the Idaho Panhandle National Forests. Conservation Data Center, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Boise. 26 pp. plus appendices.
A86RAB02IDUS	Rabe, F. W., R. Biggum, R. Breckenridge, and R. Naskali. 1986. A limnological description of selected peatland lakes in Idaho. Journal of the Idaho Academy of Science 22(2): 63-90.
U80SAV02IDUS	Savage, N. L., and C. A. Wellner. 1980. Establishment report for the Kaniksu Marsh Research Natural Area within the Kaniksu National Forest, Bonner County, Idaho. 18 pp.
U80WEL09IDUS	Wellner, C., and D. Blackburn. 1980. Species list for Kaniksu Marsh Research Natural Area. Pages 6-9 in Establishment Record for Kaniksu Marsh Research Natural Area, Kaniksu National Forest, Bonner County, Idaho. United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service.
U77BLA01IDUS	Blackburn, D. 1977. Research natural areas program report, Kaniksu Marsh and Sneakfoot Meadow. Not paged.
U87CAI01IDUS	Caicco, S. L. 1987. Field investigations of selected sensitive plant species on the Nez Perce National Forest. 42 pp. plus appendices.
U97JAN02IDUS	Jankovsky-Jones, M. 1997. Conservation strategy for Northern Idaho wetlands. Conservation Data Center, Idaho Department of Fish and Game. 35 pp. plus appendices.

**Imagery Comments**

