

Site Basic Report

7/11/2006

Site Code BCD S.USIDHP*179

Site Class Standard site

Name GLEASON MEADOW

Defining Managed Area

State/Province Idaho

Directions Gleason Meadow is located ca 15 air miles north of Priest River and ca 4.5 air miles southwest of Dickensheet Junction. From Priest River travel north 17 miles on Highway 57 to unmarked ranch road to the west. Travel ca 1 mile west to ranch headquarters which is in the mid section of the site. Site can be accessed by foot from the headquarters.

Minimum Elevation: 2,475 Feet 754 Meters

Maximum Elevation: 2,490 Feet 759 Meters

Site Description

Gleason Meadow lies along a ca 2 mile reach of Moores Creek. Portions of the meadow (approximately 1/2) have not been seeded and are dominated by the native grasses *Deschampsia cespitosa* (Tufted hairgrass) and *Carex microptera* (Small-winged sedge). *Danthonia californica* (California oatgrass), *Carex cusickii* (Cusick's sedge), *Glyceria grandis* (Reed mannagrass) and *Agrostis scabra* (Tickle-grass) are also well represented in the native meadow. Moores Creek has been channelized through the site for pasture development. Pastures have been seeded with a mix of *Phleum pratense* (Common timothy), *Alopecurus pratensis* (Meadow foxtail), and *Dactylis glomerata* (Orchard grass). Where Gleason Meadow narrows at the east side of the site an extensive shrubland is present which has been influenced by past beaver activity. *Nuphar polysepalum* (Pond lily) covers deep open water ponds and is present in sluggish channels. The emergent species *Eleocharis palustris* (Common spike rush) and *Carex vesicaria* (Inflated sedge) form large swards with significant amounts of *Glyceria borealis* (Northern mannagrass) in shallow water areas. The majority of the pond complex is dominated by *Salix drummondiana* (Drummond's willow) with a barren/saturated understory, or with an understory dominated by *Carex* species. *Spiraea douglasii* (Hardhack) forms a dense band around the perimeter of the shrubland.

Key Environmental Factors

Beaver have strongly influenced the development of the shrubland south of the meadow. Seasonally high water likely saturates Gleason Meadow in the spring.

Climate Description

Land Use History

Gleason Meadow has a long history of agricultural use. Approximately half the meadow has been seeded with pasture grasses. The entire meadow is used for hay production.

Cultural Features

Site Mapped Y - Yes

Mapped Date

Designer Jankovsky-Jones, M.

Boundary Justification Boundaries include Gleason Meadow along Moores Creek downstream to where the creek crosses Highway 57. The boundary includes a 200 meter upland buffer.

Primary and Secondary Area 284.00 Acres 114.93 Hectares

Primary Area 284.76 Acres 115.24 Hectares

Site Comments

Biodiversity Significance

B3 - High

Biodiversity Significance Comments

Site includes a large, high quality (A rank) occurrence of the Salix drummondiana community type and good quality (AB rank) occurrence of the Deschampsia cespitosa community type.

Other Values

V3 - Moderate values

Other Values Comments

Site is surrounded by lands managed by the United States Forest Service. The meadow is an important migration corridor for big game (elk, moose, white tail deer, and bear).

Protection Urgency

P2 - Threat/opportunity within 5 years

Protection Urgency Comments

The landowner planned to plow portions of the nonnative pasture the fall of 1996. Native pastures are the least productive hayground on the ranch. While the threat is non-imminent, there is potential that the native plant communities could be eliminated in the future to enhance hay production.

Management Urgency

M3 - Needed within 5 years to maintain quality

Management Urgency Comments

Haying activities and use of heavy equipment on native meadows should be avoided when the ground is saturated to avoid rutting and soil compaction. Much more habitat diversity and biodiversity were present prior to human settlement and the development of land for agriculture. There is potential for enhancing habitat values by restoring woody vegetation along the Moores Creek channel or attempting to reroute Moores Creek back into its natural channel.

Conservation Intentions

The owner is interested in establishing a conservation easement on Gleason Meadow and on Daggett Meadow downstream of the site. There is potential for creating a large conservation site by incorporating the Dubius Creek Fen site into the site planning process.

Protection Comments

Land Use Comments

Moores Creek has been channelized through the site which has successfully drained portions of the meadow for hay production.

Natural Hazard Comments

Beaver runs and deep holes are present in shrublands.

Exotics Comments

Pasture grasses have been planted, but they do not seem to be encroaching into native community types.

Offsite

No threats known.

Information Needs

Management Needs

Current management is compatible with continued existence of element occurrences. There is potential for management to enhance existing values through restoration.

Managed Area Relations

<u>Element ID</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Common Name</u>	<u>G-Rank</u>	<u>S-Rank</u>
7753	<i>Thuja plicata/Athyrium filix femina, Athyrium filix-femina phase</i>	western redcedar/lady-fern, lady-fern phase	G3	S3
7265	<i>Spiraea douglasii</i>	pink spiraea	G5	S4
7435	<i>Eleocharis palustris</i>	creeping spikerush	G5	S3
7275	<i>Alnus incana/Mesic Graminoids</i>	mountain alder/mesic graminoids	G3	S3
7474	<i>Nuphar polysepalum</i>	pond lily	G5	S4
7485	<i>Salix drummondiana/Carex utriculata</i>	Drummonds willow/bladder sedge	G3	S3
7547	<i>Carex vesicaria</i>	inflated sedge	GU	S3
7389	<i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i>	tufted hairgrass	G4	S3
7419	<i>Carex microptera</i>	small wing sedge	G4	S3

Reference Code

U97JAN02IDUS

Full Citation

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

