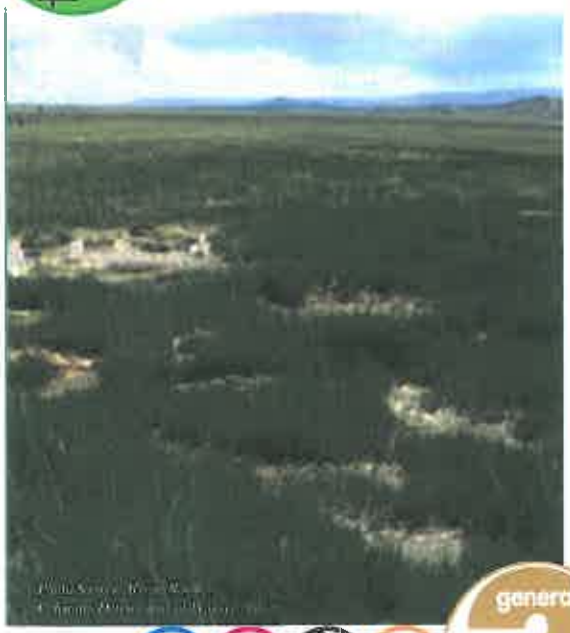
Fens



general

info

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Fens

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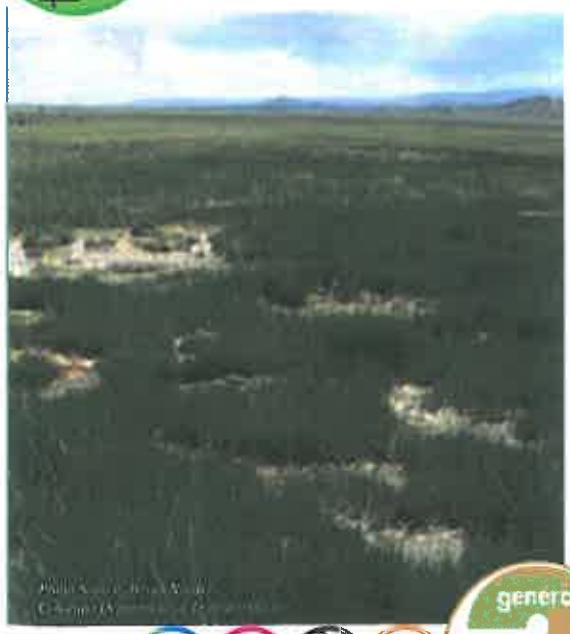

general

info

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Fens

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Fens are peat-forming wetlands that receive water from sources other than precipitation: usually from upslope sources through drainage from surrounding mineral soils and from groundwater movement. Fens are often covered by grasses, sedges, rushes, and low willows.

Fens in Colorado are fairly rare on the landscape. These squishy habitats are found only in specific environments defined by ground water discharge, soil chemistry, and peat accumulation. Many fens have distinct soil and water chemistry, with high levels of one or more minerals such as calcium, magnesium, or iron.

Fens are also considered globally rare. They occur only in the northern hemisphere, in areas that previously had glaciers.

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