

Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Gaines Canyon

Site Code S.USCOHP*24912

IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 2132 Site Class PCA
Site Alias None

Network of Conservation Areas (NCA)

<u>NCA Site ID</u>	<u>NCA Site Code</u>	<u>NCA Site Name</u>
-		No Data

LOCATORS

Nation United States Latitude 370429N
State Colorado Longitude 1075017W

Quad Code Quad Name
37107-A7 Bondad Hill

County
La Plata (CO)

Watershed Code Watershed Name
14080104 Animas

SITE DESCRIPTION

Minimum Elevation - Feet - Meters
Maximum Elevation - Feet - Meters

Site Description

The Gaines Canyon site is located in pinyon-juniper woodlands that provide breeding habitat for Gray Vireos. Warm south-facing slopes with open stands of Utah juniper (*Juniperus osteosperma*) are the vireos' preferred habitat in Colorado. At this site, the understory was mostly barren with large boulders. Two singing males and one female vireo were observed at the site. The males were in separate washes that should separate their breeding territories.

Key Environmental Factors

No Data

Climate Description

No Data

Land Use History

No Data

Cultural Features

No Data

SITE DESIGN

Site Map Y - Yes Mapped Date 02/23/2004
Designer Lyon, M.J.

Boundary Justification

The boundary encloses two observations of singing male Gray Vireos, and adjacent suitable habitat. The site was mapped to include contiguous pinyon-juniper vegetation below 6,700 ft. This area is believed to be large enough to support a minimum viable population of 100 pairs, although the actual current population size is unknown. Based on a breeding/foraging territory of ten acres per pair, minimum size would be 1,000 acres. However, not all of the area within the boundaries is expected to be suitable habitat, as it includes patches of bare ground (gas well pads) and patches with canopy cover that is too dense (especially north-facing slopes). Although site were drawn only for areas where Gray Vireos were observed in 2003, there is much additional suitable habitat in southern La Plata County.

Primary Area 7,520.65 Acres 3,043.51 Hectares

SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B5: General Biodiversity Interest

Biodiversity Significance Comments

The site contains an unranked occurrence of a bird that is rare (G4/S2B) in Colorado. Gray Vireos summer and breed in this area, and migrate south to Mexico for the winter.

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Other Values Rank No Data

Other Values Comments

No Data

LAND MANAGEMENT ISSUES

Land Use Comments

No Data

Natural Hazard Comments

No Data

Exotics Comments

No Data

Offsite

No Data

Information Needs

No Data

ASSOCIATED ELEMENTS OF BIODIVERSITY

<u>Element</u>			<u>Global</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Driving</u>
<u>State ID</u>	<u>State Scientific Name</u>	<u>State Common Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Site Rank</u>
18668	<i>Vireo vicinior</i>	Gray Vireo	G4	S2B	Yes

REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
184581	Lyon, P. 2003. Colorado Natural Heritage Program La Plata County Biological Assessment.

ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Additional Topics

No Data

VERSION

Version Date 02/23/2004
Version Author Lyon, M.J.

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