

# Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name Gunnison Gorge South Rim

Site Code S.USCOHP\*18713

## IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 1384 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 383707N  
State Colorado Longitude 1075017W

## Quad Code Quad Name

38107-F7	Black Ridge
38107-E7	Red Rock Canyon
38107-E8	Olathe
38107-F8	Olathe NW

## County

Montrose (CO)

## Watershed Code Watershed Name

14020002	Upper Gunnison
14020005	Lower Gunnison
14020006	Uncompahange

## SITE DESCRIPTION

<b>Minimum Elevation</b>	6,100.00	<b>Feet</b>	1,859.00	<b>Meters</b>
<b>Maximum Elevation</b>	7,500.00	<b>Feet</b>	2,286.00	<b>Meters</b>

## Site Description

This site encompasses a ridge between Peach Valley on the west and the Gunnison River on the east. The lower clay hillsides on the west give way to sandstone outcrops with shallow soils, and the desert shrubs are replaced by a pinon and juniper community on the upper slopes and the east side of the ridge. The two trails to the Gunnison Gorge provide the major access points to the site. The area is popular with hikers and fishermen who hike to the Gunnison River. However, most of the area is roadless, and has not been thoroughly inventoried. Although small populations of three different rare plant species have been documented here, it contains the largest population yet found for the good-neighbor bladderpod. Common plants in the area include Utah juniper, pinon pine, shadscale, mountain mahogany, spiny greasebush, Mormon tea, salina wildrye, galleta, Indian rice grass, princes plume and Hood's phlox. Undisturbed soils have crytogamic crusts between plants.

## Key Environmental Factors

No Data

## Climate Description

Arid semi-desert.

## Land Use History

No Data

## Cultural Features

No Data

## SITE DESIGN

Site Map Y - Yes Mapped Date 11/15/1998  
Designer Lyon, M.J.

## Boundary Justification

The boundary is drawn to include the known occurrences and the adjacent similar habitat which has not been surveyed.

<b>Primary Area</b>	8,200.74	<b>Acres</b>	3,318.73	<b>Hectares</b>
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## SITE SIGNIFICANCE

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Biodiversity Significance Rank B2: Very High Biodiversity Significance

## Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site contains an excellent (A-ranked) and a good (B-ranked) occurrence of the globally imperiled (G2/S2) good-neighbor bladderpod (*Lesquerella vicina*). There are also fair (C-ranked) and poor (D-ranked) occurrences of long-flower cat's-eye (*Oreocarya longiflora*) and poor (D-ranked) occurrences of Wetherill's milkvetch (*Astragalus wetherillii*).

Other Values Rank No Data

## Other Values Comments

Scenic, recreation.

## 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>
24362	<i>Oreocarya longiflora</i>	long-flower cat's-eye	G3	S3	No
20366	<i>Lesquerella vicina</i>	good-neighbor bladderpod	G2	S2	Yes
24362	<i>Oreocarya longiflora</i>	long-flower cat's-eye	G3	S3	No
22584	<i>Astragalus wetherillii</i>	Wetherill's milkvetch	G3	S3	No
20366	<i>Lesquerella vicina</i>	good-neighbor bladderpod	G2	S2	Yes
22584	<i>Astragalus wetherillii</i>	Wetherill's milkvetch	G3	S3	No

## REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
-	No Data

## ADDITIONAL TOPICS

### Additional Topics

No Data

## VERSION

<b>Version Date</b>	06/11/1999
<b>Version Author</b>	Lyon, M.J.

## Disclaimer

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