

# Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name McIntyre Canyon

Site Code S.USCOHP\*236

## IDENTIFIERS

Site ID 1236 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 380529N  
State Colorado Longitude 1085732W

<u>Quad Code</u>	<u>Quad Name</u>
38108-A8	Horse Range Mesa
38109-A1	Summit Point

## County

San Miguel (CO)

<u>Watershed Code</u>	<u>Watershed Name</u>
14030002	Upper Dolores

## SITE DESCRIPTION

<b>Minimum Elevation</b>	5,900.00	<b>Feet</b>	1,798.32	<b>Meters</b>
<b>Maximum Elevation</b>	6,300.00	<b>Feet</b>	1,920.24	<b>Meters</b>

## Site Description

This site is located on the Morrison/Summerville formation on the upper slope of a canyon rim with rocky clay loam soils and 30 degree slopes at an elevation of 5,900-6,300 feet. McIntyre Canyon is a major tributary of the Dolores River, draining a large area of western San Miguel County and southeastern Utah. Except for a small amount of private land at the confluence, the canyon is on BLM land. An unmapped dirt road that apparently services a pipeline was observed. There is some evidence of grazing. Otherwise, the lower part of the canyon is remote and difficult to access, except by raft or kayak from the Dolores River. Vegetation of the area is sagebrush shrubland with widely spaced pinon and juniper. The major grass in the lower part of the canyon is blue grama, with some needle-and-threadgrass, six-weeks fescue and cheatgrass. Other common plants were Indian ricegrass, galleta, scarlet globemallow, sand aster, actinea, many-lobed groundsel, prickly-pear cactus, snakeweed, hairy golden aster, Townsend's Easter daisy, rough-seed cats-eye, four o'clocks, and princes plume. Baker documented an excellent occurrence of the common plant association of pinon pine and mountain mahogany on benches in the upper part of the canyon in 1983 (Baker 1984). Also, the pinon pine / needle-and-threadgrass association, considered to be less common, was found to be in good condition. It was observed in 1999 as well. This association occurs frequently in openings in the pinon - juniper woodland, usually in small patches, making it difficult to map. A new occurrence of the Naturita milkvetch was found in 1999, along the base of the cliffs on the north side of the canyon, in red sandy soils derived from the Navajo Formation. The plants were particularly abundant in the disturbed area along the road. This supports our observations from other sites, that this species seems to thrive on some disturbance. Over 200 individuals were counted, and there are doubtless many more. In 1983, a smaller population of the milkvetch was found several miles upstream from the confluence, again on the disturbed pipeline route and on cryptogamic soil. In alcoves of Navajo sandstone cliffs, are found hanging garden communities dominated by yellow columbine, and containing a small population of the rare Eastwood monkeyflower. Other associated species in this habitat included Utah serviceberry, fendlerbush, mountain mahogany, New Mexico privet, skunkbrush (forma *simplicifolia*, the form with unlobed leaves), single leaf ash, and gray aster. Survival of the hanging garden community is dependent on the continued availability of the water source from the mesa above. Water diversions or prolonged drought could obliterate this habitat. It appears that the Eastwood's monkeyflower requires more permanent water than the more common columbine. In this and other sites, it grows in a deep horizontal crack that holds moisture, and on spongy, algae covered walls. The columbine is more often present in drier sites, and may be able to tap a deeper source of water.

## Key Environmental Factors

No Data

## Climate Description

No Data

# Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name McIntyre Canyon

Site Code S.USCOHP\*236

## Land Use History

No Data

## Cultural Features

No Data

### SITE DESIGN

Site Map Y - Yes

Mapped Date 03/13/2000

Designer Lyon, M.J. and J.R. Sovell

## Boundary Justification

The boundary encloses all of the element occurrences located near the mouth of the canyon and several miles upstream, and the intervening canyon. Although the entire canyon was not surveyed, the habitat appears to be continuous, and *Naturita* milkvetch can be expected in the areas between the documented occurrences.

Primary Area 3,109.36 Acres

1,258.32 Hectares

### SITE SIGNIFICANCE

Biodiversity Significance Rank B2: Very High Biodiversity Significance

## Biodiversity Significance Comments

This site gains its very high significance rank from the excellent to good (AB-ranked) occurrence of the globally imperiled (G2G3/S2S3) *Naturita* milkvetch (*Astragalus naturitensis*) and the good (B-ranked) occurrence of the globally imperiled (G2G3/S2S3) hanging garden community, *Aquilegia micrantha* - *Mimulus eastwoodiae*. It also supports a good (B-ranked) occurrence of the globally vulnerable (G3/S1) Eastwood's monkey-flower (*Mimulus eastwoodiae*), a good to fair (BC-ranked) occurrence of a globally imperiled (G2/S2) xeric western slope pinon - juniper community, *Pinus edulis* - (*Juniperus monosperma*, *Juniperus osteosperma*) / *Hesperostipa comata*, and an excellent (A-ranked) example of globally common (G5/S4) woodlands with Colorado pinon and mountain mahogany, *Pinus edulis* - *Juniperus* spp. / *Cercocarpus montanus*.

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 State ID</u>	<u>State Scientific Name</u>	<u>State Common Name</u>	<u>Global Rank</u>	<u>State Rank</u>	<u>Driving Site Rank</u>
21647	<i>Astragalus naturitensis</i>	Naturita milkvetch	G2G3	S2S3	No
21647	<i>Astragalus naturitensis</i>	Naturita milkvetch	G2G3	S2S3	Yes
24830	<i>Pinus edulis</i> - <i>Juniperus</i> spp. / <i>Cercocarpus montanus</i> Woodland	Mesic Western Slope Pinyon-Juniper Woodlands	G5	S4	No
21230	<i>Mimulus eastwoodiae</i>	Eastwood monkey-flower	G3G4	S1	No
24556	<i>Pinus edulis</i> - ( <i>Juniperus monosperma</i> , <i>Juniperus osteosperma</i> ) / <i>Hesperostipa comata</i> Woodland	Xeric Western Slope Pinyon-Juniper Woodlands	G2?	S2	No
24552	<i>Aquilegia micrantha</i> - <i>Mimulus eastwoodiae</i> Herbaceous Vegetation	Hanging Gardens	G2G3	S2S3	Yes

# Level 4 Potential Conservation Area (PCA) Report

Name McIntyre Canyon

Site Code S.USCOHP\*236

## REFERENCES

<u>Reference ID</u>	<u>Full Citation</u>
192792	Lyon, P. and J. Sovell. 2000. Final Report: A Natural Heritage Assessment, San Miguel and Western Montrose Counties, Colorado. Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Fort Collins, CO.

## ADDITIONAL TOPICS

### Additional Topics

No Data

## VERSION

<b>Version Date</b>	03/13/2000
<b>Version Author</b>	Lyon, M.J. and J.R. Sovell

## Disclaimer

These data are a product and property of Colorado State University, Colorado Natural Heritage Program (CNHP). These data are strictly "on loan" and should be considered "works in progress". Data maintained in the Colorado Natural Heritage Program database are an integral part of ongoing research at CSU and reflect the observations of many scientists, institutions and our current state of knowledge. These data are acquired from various sources, with varying levels of accuracy, and are continually being updated and revised. Many areas have never been surveyed and the absence of data in any particular geographic area does not necessarily mean that species or ecological communities of concern are not present. These data should not be regarded as a substitute for on-site surveys required for environmental assessments. Absence of evidence is NOT evidence of absence. Absence of any data does not mean that other resources of special concern do not occur, but rather CNHP files do not currently contain information to document this presence. CNHP is not responsible for whether other, non-CNHP data providers have secured landowner permission for data collected.

**These data are provided for non-commercial purposes only.** Under no circumstances are data to be distributed in any fashion to outside parties. To ensure accurate application of data, tabular and narrative components must be evaluated in conjunction with spatial components. Failure to do so constitutes a misuse of the data. The Colorado Natural Heritage Program shall have no liability or responsibility to the data users, or any other person or entity with respect to liability, loss, or damage caused or alleged to be caused directly or indirectly by the data, including but not limited to any interruption of service, loss of business, anticipatory profits or indirect, special, or consequential damages resulting from the use of operation of the data. Data users hereby agree to hold CNHP, Colorado State University, and the State of Colorado harmless from any claim, demand, cause of action, loss, damage or expense from or related to data users use of or reliance on the data, regardless of the cause or nature thereof, and even in the event that such cause is attributable to the negligence or misconduct of CNHP.

These data are provided on an as-is basis, as-available basis without warranties of any kind, expressed or implied, INCLUDING (BUT NOT LIMITED TO) WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY, FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE, AND NON-INFRINGEMENT. Although CNHP maintains high standards of data quality control, CNHP, Colorado State University, and the State of Colorado further expressly disclaim any warranty that the data are error-free or current as of the date supplied